More of the same

The carbon-copy polygamist that lurks in every man
Libby Purves, page 17



A great meal for 20p

Dine out for the price of *The Times*
Details, token, p38



Curtain up after five years

Emma Thompson's mother gets back to the stage
Jeremy Kingston, page 35

20p

THE TIMES

No. 65,169 SATURDAY JANUARY 20 1995

Leaked letter on budget for schools forecast effect of funding squeeze

'Jobs will go' warning by Shephard

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

THOUSANDS of teaching posts will disappear and class sizes will "shoot up" if teachers receive their expected pay rise, Gillian Shephard warned Cabinet colleagues in a leaked letter published today.

The Education Secretary's comments, made in the run-up to last November's public spending settlement, succeeded in wringing from the Treasury another £133 million for education. But the 1.1 per cent increase is well below the inflation rate and falls far short of the money needed to fund the pay rise she considered necessary. The result will inevitably be substantial job losses and bigger classes.

The letter, published in today's edition of *The Times Educational Supplement*, looked forward to a "period of calm" in classrooms after the ending of test boycotts. "All this will now be in immediate danger if we now offer teachers either a provocatively low settlement, or acceptable pay levels only at the cost of sharp increases in class sizes."

Mrs Shephard has since instructed the School Teachers' Review Body to "have regard to affordability" in recommending any increase for the coming year. However, as the Education Secretary predicted in the leaked letter, the board is expected to recommend an increase of 2.9 per cent, the rate of inflation, when it reports within weeks.

She was writing to David Hunt, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in his capacity as chairman of the Cabinet committee dealing with education spending. She forecast that up to 10,000 teaching posts would be lost if the 0.3 per cent budget increase on offer at the time was combined with an inflation-linked pay rise for teachers.

On that basis, the eventual 1.1 per cent increase would still imply the loss of several thousand jobs and a consequent rise in class sizes at a time when there are an extra 120,000 pupils. Mrs Shephard told education authorities earlier this month that they faced "tough decisions", but reminded councillors that education had been treated more favourably than other public services.



Shephard: succeeded in winning £133m more

Class sizes have grown steadily over the past four years. The pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools has risen from 22.0 in 1990 to 22.7 in 1994; the increase in secondary schools was from 15.4 to 16.4. Teacher numbers have remained relatively stable despite a 4 per cent increase in the number of pupils.

Local authorities and school governors are already forecasting job losses and bigger classes. A *Times Educational Supplement* survey found only 11 authorities able to afford a pay rise in line with inflation, with many expecting schools to find the money to increase teachers' pay.

In the leaked letter, Mrs Shephard raised the possibility of rejecting the review body's recommendations, but said that would be provocative if other review bodies fared better. "I cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of not seeming to single teachers out for harsh treatment."

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said: "Gillian Shephard has clearly admitted that the Government is going to force up class sizes as a result of the cuts it has imposed on schools. We have been saying this since the Budget, and we now have clear confirmation from the pen of the Secretary of State herself."

The Education Department refused to comment on the letter. A spokesman said that Mrs Shephard regarded education authority budgets as "manageable".

The Association of County Councils said that the figures in the leaked letter underestimated the scale of the budget squeeze facing councillors. David Whitbread, the association's under-secretary for education, said Whitehall formulas ignored the fact that most councils already spent almost 4 per cent more than the Government allowed.

Mr Whitbread said: "Mrs Shephard is shown to be speaking with two voices: sharing people's concern for increasing class sizes when talking to the Treasury; but having to maintain the line in public that class sizes do not matter and are not linked to standards."

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said his analysis of official figures obtained in a parliamentary written answer showed that local education authorities faced a £50 (or 2.5 per cent) spending cut for each primary pupil. Each secondary pupil risked a reduction of £194 (6.9 per cent).

Mr Foster, whose calculations were based upon changes in the standard spending assessment of each education authority, said that the worst-affected areas for secondary funding would be: Sutton (9.4 per cent cut), Solihull (8.7), Wigan (8.5) and Barking (7.9).

He said: "Local education authorities are being asked to do more and more for their pupils with less and less money. No wonder class sizes are rising, repairs are not being carried out and more and more town halls fear that teachers' jobs will have to be axed."

HUW EVANS



Claire Hood, 15, whose body was found in woodland close to her Cardiff home

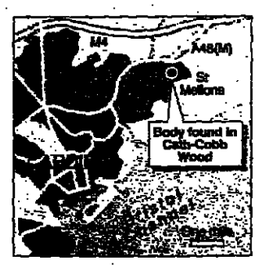
Girl, aged 15, is murdered taking short cut to school

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND SIMON DE BRUXELLES

The partially clothed body of a 15-year-old girl was found in woods yesterday after she went missing while walking to school.

Detectives believe Claire Hood may have been attacked while taking a short cut through Cathcot Woods near the St Mellons housing estate on the outskirts of Cardiff. She failed to arrive back at Rumney high school after going home for lunch on Wednesday.

A 13-year-old girl from the same school escaped after a man hit her over the head with a piece of wood while she was walking home on the same afternoon. Although detectives say there is no evidence the two assaults are linked they have placed the girl under police protection. Claire's body was found by a 14-year-old boy out cycling yesterday morning near a path through the woods. Friends said last night that although she would have walked past the woods on her way to school, she never ventured in. Detective Superintendent Colin Jones, of the South Wales serious crime squad, who is heading the murder inquiry, said: "Someone has ended this girl's young life before it has ever properly started."



There is no evidence that Claire was sexually assaulted before she died.

Robert Gullis, Claire's headmaster, said last night: "We are sending a letter to all parents advising them to make sure their children take extra care. They should walk in groups and raise the alarm as soon as possible if they see anything untowards. We are obviously very distressed."

The schoolgirl who escaped described her attacker as white, in his late twenties or early thirties, and approximately 5ft 7in tall.

Russians take Grozny palace but fighting continues

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN ASSINOVSKAYA

RUSSIAN troops captured the Presidential Palace in the centre of Grozny yesterday. The Chechen Government admitted that its forces had abandoned the building after it was reduced to rubble by bombing.

But Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen Commander-in-Chief, said that the loss of the palace was of no military significance. Chechen troops would continue their fight in the rest of the capital.

Colonel Maskhadov looked tired and grim at a press conference in Nazran, capital of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, after unsuccessful talks in Moscow with the Russian Government aimed at arranging a ceasefire. "We don't say that we want to defeat the Russian army; that would be stupid. It only remains to die honourably for our country," he said.

Throughout the day, Russian artillery and jets pounded the centre of Grozny around the palace and the southern approaches to the city, as well as villages and roads in the Caucasus. Colonel Maskhadov said that the palace had been abandoned after "special Russian bombs" with time-delay fuses had damaged the bunker beneath it, making it useless as a headquarters.

The Chechen HQ had been moved half a mile to a site in the Chechen-held eastern half of the city. "I as a soldier see no change in our position and our duty," he said. "Our high command continues to exist. Our volunteers are at their places and are ready to fight on harder than ever. If they think they can insult and enslave the Chechen people, this fighting will go on for years."

The Chechens now hold only one small salient near the railway station west of the Sunzha, the river running through Grozny. The loss of the palace might lead to the Chechen defences crumbling, a successful Russian push across the Sunzha, and the rapid capture of the rest of the city. The Russian generals, having achieved something they can present to their public as a victory, may now be prepared to reopen political negotiations with the Chechens.

Echoing previous statements by Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, however, Colonel Maskhadov and his colleagues on the Chechen delegation accused the Russian military of destroying a ceasefire agreement already worked out in Moscow. Colonel Maskhadov said that on Wednesday evening he spoke to General Ivan Babichev by radio and said he was ready to meet to end the fighting. General Babichev allegedly said that the only conditions Russia would accept would be the surrender of the Presidential Palace and all its garrison.

Colonel Maskhadov said the general later insisted on total Chechen capitulation. Colonel Maskhadov said: "I took this as an insult, and I told him that I would not behave like a coward and nor would my men. I said that I could not agree to his conditions, and bade him goodbye."

Fighting continued around Assinovskaya village near the western Chechen border with Ingushetia, whereRussian forces appeared to be stalled. If they are, there will be little to stop Chechen fighters from leaving Grozny to begin a guerrilla campaign.

INSIDE

Yeltsin's claim 11
Leading article 19

Mortgage rates rise

The Halifax bulding society, biggest in the country, yesterday said it would raise its rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.35 per cent from April 1, the Nationwide and National & Provincial followed suit, by 0.3 per cent to 8.44 per cent, and by 0.36 per cent to 8.45 per cent respectively Page 23

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths 20
Bridge 6
Chess 6, 44
Court and Social 20
Crossword 22
Leading articles 19
Letters 19
Obituaries 21
Weather 24
TV & Radio 42-43

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Ministers put out peace signals

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MINISTERS sent out fresh peace signals to the Euro-rebels last night despite their rebellion on fishing and publication of a policy agenda that made them look even more like a party within a party.

In a move that caused surprise among loyalist backbenchers, senior cabinet ministers appeared ready to turn a blind eye to the latest revolt as John Major launched a fresh effort to unite his party behind his European policy and his approach to next year's conference on the future of the European Union.

Ministers said the fresh rebellion had not changed the Government's wish to bring an early end to the breach. They said it was accepted that the rebels had strong views on European issues and that Wednesday night's withdrawal of support from the Government did not amount to "re-offending while on bail".

That approach was mirrored by other cabinet ministers who appeared to suggest that if the rebels contained their acts of rebellion to European matters, and did not widen their misdemeanours, they might soon be able to earn their passage back. Jonathan Aitken, the Euro-sceptic Treasury Chief Secretary, took a conciliatory line. He denied that the policy paper was a a snub to Mr Major and said there were no grounds for saying that it made it impossible for them to return to the fold. They had long held independent views on Europe. Mr Major also took a relaxed line, refusing opportunities in the Commons to condemn the rebels' behaviour.

Some ministers expressed strong criticism of the rebel policy statement, though. John Gummer, Environment Secretary, said: "No government can operate in the United Kingdom without having sensible views toward Europe, but the Conservative Party has a very small number who don't want that sensible view."

It appeared that the Prime Minister and his colleagues had decided against doing anything to upset the new, but still fragile, mood of harmony

Continued on page 2, col 3

Sixes and sevens, and Peter Riddell, page 9
Leading article, and Letters, page 19

THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



In *The Times* new motoring section tomorrow, your chance to win a different car to drive each month for a year — and a money-saving car hire offer for all readers

PLUS

- David Coulthard's other car
- Testing the top ten bestsellers
- Return of the super(fast)car
- The good used-car guide

Quiet despair in Kobe's rubble

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN KOBE

THE stillness is unnerving. In the warm refuge of Kobe's city hall, hundreds of people wrapped in blankets sleep or stare into space. Their faces are blank; the chaos of the past few days has drained them of emotion. Now they must rebuild their lives, and it will not be easy.

The seismic explosion that detonated under their city has thrown them into a strange new world, where their homes are smoking heaps of rubble and their friends and relatives are dead.

I found cycling through Kobe a bizarre experience. In Chinatown, stone lions have been toppled from their pedestals, mechanical excavators tear like hungry monsters at the remains of a collapsed motorway. Fragments of glass rest like frost in the flowers of a window-box. Overhead, helicopters relentlessly thud-thud across the sky so that film crews can capture the devastation.

At the Red Cross hospital, the injured are brought in — 60 on Wednesday, 85 yesterday. Between operations, a doctor spares a moment to talk. The situation is critical, he says. Often, by the time ambulances reach the injured after navigating streets blocked by shattered buildings and tangled with telephone wires, it is too late. Those with head or chest injuries have little chance of survival. Several hospitals are so severely damaged that they cannot accept patients. Those that remain operational must struggle with limited water supplies.

The doctor fears for his nurses and ambulance drivers. They have managed to keep going with almost no sleep, but now their strength is fading fast and they need relief staff desperately.

Some way down the road, a long queue waits patiently to buy food at one of the few shops open. Some people have waited an hour or more. They feel bewildered and resentful. One man is angry about the Government's slow response to the disaster. "They're doing nothing. We don't have water — we're running out of food. Where are they? We need help."

Three days after the earthquake, it is unclear how much

Continued on page 14, col 8

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Establishment 'has failed British film industry'



Attenborough: said that self-confidence needed

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LORD ATTENBOROUGH accused the political and financial Establishment yesterday of failing to recognise the cinema as a serious art form.

In a spirited hearing, the celebrated film director and actor told the Commons Select Committee on National Heritage that the key to reviving the British film industry lay in instilling the Government and film-makers with a positive attitude. "The most important thing is that everybody has confidence," he said, adding that "the manner in which the cinema is viewed by the Establishment and vast numbers of people" was not conducive to self-belief.

"The Establishment do not consider [cinema] has any artistic merit whatsoever and that is one of the problems that we face," he said. Young film-makers had been indoctrinated to aim low, he said, because their horizons had been stunted by the limited funding available and because cinemas no longer showed B-films on which they could learn their craft.

Today's film-makers had grown up in a climate in which television companies had become the main financiers of British films and budgets were therefore small. "We have dissuaded our creators — the writers — from even contemplating generating something of real cinematic scale because their chances of getting them backed are one in a million," he told MPs.

Describing himself as a "permanent optimist" who had been in the business of 55 years, Lord Attenborough said he believed that indigenous film-makers had the potential to turn Britain into the Hollywood of Europe.

He proposed a levy on blank video tapes and tax concessions for foreign actors filming here, to boost investment in British films. "If you talk to people like Jack Nicholson, they say 'I'm not going to the UK because my tax people tell me they have all sorts of problems there,'" he said, adding that this could be remedied at relatively little cost by allowing film-makers to pay foreign film stars gross of tax. Lord Attenborough said that a new system of capital allowances, which would allow film-makers to write-off 100 per cent of their investment against corporation tax within one year, might also help the industry.

He emphasised, however, that he was not coming to the Government with a "begging bowl". Big film distributors, such as Rank, needed to invest more to help develop large-scale, integrated production houses. Big American studios could afford to churn out hundreds of films a year because they used the profits of their hits to offset the losses of the flops.

The committee also heard evidence from the BBC and from Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4. Mr Grade told MPs that Channel 4, the single biggest funder of feature films in the UK, expected to make a return of at least £4 million on its investment of £400,000 in the hit film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

He added that although Channel 4 had invested £50 million in film production in the past five years, it had received only £15 million revenue. The company could afford to bear the losses because it offset them against the television rights it automatically acquired for the films it financed.

Apart from the cultural benefits of an indigenous film industry, Mr Grade said it could provide many jobs. "There is an amazing amount of employment on the periphery of a film; never mind the employment on the production itself," he said. He complained, however, that film distribution companies were reaping profits from the cinema, but failing to invest in production.

As part of their inquiry into the future of the British film industry, members of the all-party committee have recently made fact-finding trips to Hollywood and to Ireland. Toby Jessel, the Tory MP for Twickenham, said Britain could learn from Dublin's positive attitude towards film-making as well as the tax breaks the industry benefited from in the Republic.



Grade: film industry "can create jobs"

Nolan acts quickly to overhaul MPs' link to lobbyists

BY MICHAEL DYNES

AN INDEPENDENT authority with wide-ranging powers to regulate MPs' financial affairs was proposed by Lord Nolan's inquiry into standards of public life yesterday.

Rules governing the relationship between MPs and commercial lobbyists must be overhauled, and MPs should be given much more stringent guidance about what was and what was not acceptable, Lord Nolan said.

The decision to announce an overhaul so soon into the inquiry is seen as confirmation that the reputation of MPs has fallen into disrepute, and urgent action is needed to restore public confidence in Britain's representative institutions.

Lord Nolan said: "It seems plain from the evidence so far that the rules on MPs' connections with lobbyists need to be tightened up, that MPs need much better guidance on what is and what is not acceptable, and that the declaration of interests must be made in more detail." He added: "It is also reasonably clear that we need to consider in detail the possible introduction of an independent element into Parliament's current arrangements for self-regulation." But where to draw the line over MPs being paid for outside interests "is much less clear".

Giving evidence on the third day of the public hearings, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour Prime Minister, who was an MP for more than 40 years, said that it was now imperative for MPs to have a code of conduct governing their financial interests. MPs should declare any salaries they received for work outside Parliament and should be prohibited from acting as paid consultants unless they had a "particular professional expertise".

The situation in the Commons had "changed out of all recognition" from when he first became an MP in 1945, Lord Callaghan said. There was now "much more wooing of MPs by business", which had provided a "rich seam for lobbyists" to exploit.

Lord Callaghan provided the inquiry with a list of recommendations to reverse the deterioration in parliamentary standards, including a new code of conduct for MPs, which should be adopted at the beginning of every new Parliament to draw to the attention of new members the importance of preserving "the dignity of the House".

MPs should be required to declare "all contracts, agreements, and remuneration from outside bodies", prohibited from "representing company interests to ministers", and the use of Commons facilities by lobbying firms "should be curtailed".

In addition, the Commons privileges committee should be restored to its former status, it should be made up of senior members of the Commons, an independent element should be added to it, and "and it should not be hesitant in using its disciplinary powers".

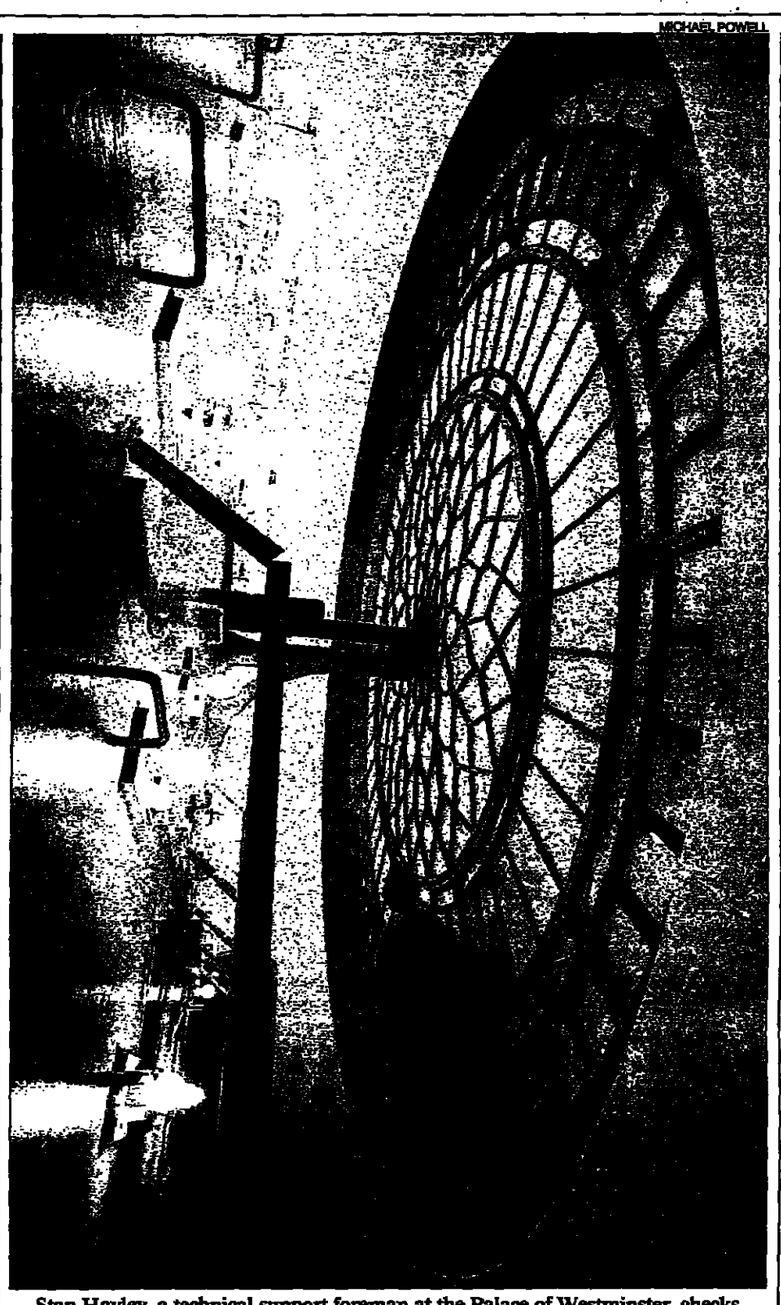
"The sense of dignity of the House, and the honour of being a member" must be instilled into new members, Lord Callaghan said. This had become all the more important with the change in values of society. "New members come in imbued with the doctrine of the market place, and the idea of making a profit margin on everything you do," he added.

Chris Moncrieff, the former political editor of the Press Association, who worked as a Westminster correspondent for 33 years, told the inquiry that the lobbying industry had increased "massively" over the past few years. "There is far more lunching and dining involving professional lobbyists and MPs now," he said. "What astounds me is the naivety, you could even say downright stupidity, of MPs handling lobbyists."

Nigel Forman, Conservative MP for Carshalton and Wallington, , told the inquiry that MPs should be banned from acting as advocates for outside interests, and as paid directors or employees of lobbying companies. However, MPs should be free to act as paid or unpaid advisors to outside interests, he added.

The inquiry continues next Tuesday. John MacGregor, former Transport Secretary, Andrew Gifford, of the Association of Professional Political Consultants, Peter Preston, Editor in Chief of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, and Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, will give evidence.

MICHAEL POWELL



Stan Hayley, a technical support foreman at the Palace of Westminster, checks the new low-energy bulbs illuminating the faces of the Big Ben clock before they were used for the first time last night

Ministers' peace signals

Continued from page 1

among Tory MPs. They appeared to recognise that they have little option but to try to recreate their parliamentary majority.

Wednesday's vote again emphasised the Government's vulnerability. Without the votes of Ulster Unionists, it would have lost. Although not all the rebels may want to come back quickly, the Government needs to bring some of them back on board as soon as it decently can.

The desire for a unified approach is underlined by a letter in *The Times* today signed by senior backbenchers from across the party spectrum. The signatories, headed by Tom King, the former cabinet minister, include Sir Peter Hordern, David Howell, chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, and right-wing members of the 1922 executive such as Bob Dunn, David Evans and Jim Pawsey.

The letter, which is also clearly intended to be a rebuff to the views of the nine Euro-rebels, backs the negotiating position recently set out by Mr Major, adding that "the vast majority of Conservatives support a clear-headed approach to securing what is in Britain's best interests".

Earlier it had seemed that Mr Major's hopes of an early end to the rift took a blow as the rebels issued their own manifesto only 12 hours after rebelling on the vote to allow Spanish trawlers greater access to British waters.

Many rebel demands, including rejection of a Europe-wide foreign and defence policy, abolition of the European Court's powers to intervene in national politics and a pledge never to join a single currency, go well beyond what the Government could accept.

One of them, Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North, said: "Unless the Conservative Party gets its policies right on Europe, the Government will not be re-elected."

Sixes and sevens, and Peter Riddell, page 9
Leading article, and Letters, page 19

Doctors say NHS damaged by private practice

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LEADING consultants alleged yesterday that the NHS is being undermined by the growth of private practice and the introduction of the Government's market reforms.

Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, former chairman of the British Medical Association Council, attacked the Government's handling of the NHS and called for a new consultant contract to reduce public disquiet about doctors "moonlighting" in private practice.

Announcing that he was quitting the NHS early, Dr Lee-Potter, 60, urged doctors to reconsider their traditional allegiance to the Conservative Party. "Doctors' professional ethos is at greater threat from a Conservative than a Labour Government. Labour could correct some of the Tory Government's excesses."

Dr Lee-Potter, is retiring from his post as consultant haematologist at Poole NHS Trust, Dorset, next month. In an article to be published in the association's *News Review* next week, Dr Lee-Potter says unhappiness with the NHS changes is now so serious that "the whole service is under threat" but the Government remains wedded to the "political dogma" of markets and competition. "You see the NHS going on down the slope."

Dr Lee-Potter says that concerns over private practice have exposed the "archaic" consultant contract. "We need to renegotiate a clean straightforward contract which makes it clearer where consultants are expected to be and when."

Professor Harry Keen, emeritus professor of human metabolism at Guy's Hospital in London and president of the NHS Support Federation, which is opposed to the NHS market, said surgeons had time on their hands because the shortage of resources limited the NHS work they could do so they turned to private practice. "I know that is happening. Surgeons complain if only they had the chance to tackle the waiting list they would do it."

☐ A junior doctor told an inquiry she had to work an 84-hour week and managed to get to the canteen at lunchtime only twice in six months. Dr Valerie Dudgeon, 24, formerly a senior house officer at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, is one of four doctors taking a test case to an industrial tribunal in Glasgow. They claim they were underpaid for their work.

Police have electric shock 'riot shields'

Police have bought electric shock "riot shields" to add to their armouries. The disclosure that several forces in England and Wales have obtained the equipment sparked alarm among MPs and civil liberties groups. David Maclean, a junior Home Office Minister, admitted in a written parliamentary answer that the equipment had been obtained by senior officers, but he denied that the shields would be used in confrontations with demonstrators.

The admission came nine days after a Channel Four *Dispatches* programme alleged that police were secretly testing shields with electric currents in them. At the time, the Home Office said no force had or planned to have electric shock weapons. A Home Office spokesman denied inconsistency yesterday and said that the shields were not "weapons", but "defensive instruments".

MPs criticise taxmen

Tax collectors were accused of making widespread and costly errors in assessing income tax and were told to speed up their work by the Commons Public Accounts Committee. More than half of taxpayers studied by independent auditors were assessed incorrectly, with £770 million of overcharging and undercharging costing the Treasury about £100 million. The Inland Revenue was also criticised for withholding personal allowances from 100,000 taxpayers, although inspectors already had the necessary information.

Ex-policeman sues

A former police officer is suing his chief constable over stress he allegedly suffered at work and which ruined his career. The claim, for around £100,000, is believed to be the first of its kind. Paul Hatton, 41, who served 20 years with Merseyside Police, alleges that he was forced to carry out the work of four detectives. The stress caused by overwork made life intolerable, according to Mr Hatton, and he was forced to retire from the force on the ground of ill health.

Ireland ambassador

Dublin has appointed a new ambassador to Ireland. Veronica Sutherland will take over in March from David Blatherwick, who is leaving Dublin to take up a new appointment in the diplomatic service. Mrs Sutherland, 55, is currently an assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office. She has previously served as ambassador to the Ivory Coast.

Girl died in rescue effort

A teenage girl died in a vain attempt to save her three-year-old brother from a fire he is thought to have started with a lighter, Southwark Coroner's Court was told yesterday. Natasha Kearns Ogilvie, 14, and her brother Thomas Kearns were killed by smoke fumes in the blaze at their home in Kidbrooke, southeast London, in October. Their mother and three other children escaped. Verdict: accidental death.

Falklands soldiers sue

Four former Welsh Guardsmen who claim to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the Falklands conflict are suing the Ministry of Defence for £200,000 each. The men are Derry Price, 33, of Abersychan, Gwent; Simon Skinner, 35, of Manselton, West Glamorgan; Dennis Morris, 38, of Tredegar, Gwent; and Chris Lewis, 30, of Port Talbot. Three served on the *Sir Galahad* and the fourth on *HMS Intrepid*.

Spain frees soccer fans

Seven Manchester United fans remanded in custody in Barcelona after a European Cup match in November were fined a total of £2,000 and freed yesterday. The charges related to a fight over the cost of beer drunk by the fans in a hotel bar. The prosecution had demanded six months in prison and £3,250 compensation, but an out-of-court agreement was reached after a ten-minute hearing at which the seven pleaded guilty.

NHS adviser charged

Clive Froggatt, 46, of Gloucester, a doctor who helped the Government to reform the NHS by acting as adviser to the Department of Health on GP fundholding, was committed for trial on bail yesterday accused of illegally obtaining and possessing heroin. The prosecution made clear to Gloucester magistrates that the 16 charges before them were specimens of Dr Froggatt's alleged conduct during an 18-month period from early 1993.

Gatti to join RPO

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has appointed Daniele Gatti, the Milanese conductor, as its music director for the 1996-97 season. It was disclosed last month that Vladimir Ashkenazy had resigned the post after learning that the orchestra had been negotiating behind his back. Mr Gatti is music director of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome and principal guest conductor of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

Ice Age spiders found

A species of spider previously unknown to Britain has been discovered by scientists in a bog dating from the Ice Age. The black spider, known as *Gnaphosa nigerrima*, is found on the Continent and is believed to have become isolated in Britain when the island broke away from the rest of Europe 7,000 years ago. Dr Chris Felton, a Liverpool entymologist, said yesterday that a whole population had been unearthed at Wybunbury Moss in Cheshire.

Coastguards praise 'textbook' rescue of 18 oilmen

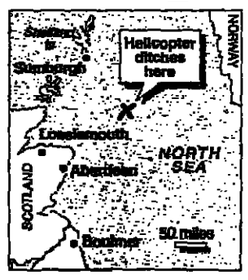
BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE rescue of 18 oilmen whose helicopter ditched in the North Sea yesterday afternoon after being struck by lightning was hailed as the perfect operation yesterday.

The men, who spent an hour and a half in life rafts before they were found, were all uninjured. Six helicopters, an airplane and several ships were involved in the rescue after the Super Puma chopper made a controlled landing 150 miles from Aberdeen.

Peter Flood, of the Aberdeen coastguard, said: "Everything seemed to come together. It was a textbook rescue. It must have been very frightening for the men involved but we are all relieved that it has been so successful."

The Bristow-owned helicopter, chartered by Marathon, an American oil company, was ten miles from the company's Brae Alpha platform in the North Sea and heading for Aberdeen with 16 oil workers and two crew when it was struck by lightning.



The pilot made a Mayday call before ditching at 12.45pm. One minute later, rescue helicopters were launched from RAF Lossiemouth, Grampian, RAF Boulmer, Northumberland, and from the coastguard base at Sumburgh in Shetland. A Norwegian civilian helicopter and another helicopter from the oil platform joined in the mission as did several ships in the area.

The oilmen, all of whom were wearing special immersion suits and are trained in helicopter evacuation techniques, were able to launch the helicopter's two inflatable life rafts and clamber aboard. The chopper also has push-out windows for passengers to make a fast exit, and distress beacons.

After an hour-and-a-half the men were rescued by an oil supply standby vessel, *Grampian Freedom*. The helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth then winched 14 of the men on board to take them back to the Brae Alpha platform for medical checks. The other four opted to stay on the ship.

Winds were gusting up to 30mph but seas were moderate and visibility good. North Sea helicopter operators have been concerned about a number of recent lightning strikes to aircraft in the area. The Department of Transport said a seven-strong team from the Air Accidents Investigation Branch was travelling to Aberdeen.



A Bristow helicopter similar to the one that ditched

The last major North Sea helicopter crash was in March 1992 when a Super Puma went down in severe weather off the Cormorant Alpha platform. On that occasion eleven oilmen died and six survived.

The Super Puma is regarded as the most sophisticated of its kind. There are about 40 in use with British companies. It is rapidly replacing the Sikorsky S61 N as the "workhorse" of the North Sea. The Super Puma is designed to land on water and has flotation bags which the pilots can inflate.

The length of time a ditched helicopter can stay afloat depends very much on the state of the sea. Late yesterday afternoon the helicopter was reported to be still afloat.

The pilot of the rescue helicopter was praised as a hero after it emerged that his passengers got into their life raft without even getting their feet wet. Dennis Royle, Marathon's corporate saftey manager, said: "Many of them were seasick and rather upset as you might expect but there were no injuries."

Dave Smith, general manager of Marathon Oil in Aberdeen, said: "This has been a very unfortunate incident and I would like to express my gratitude to the emergency services."

Olympics official says second lieutenant enjoyed being centre of attention

Army officers deny closing ranks over claims of bullying

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN ARMY officer alleged to have been involved in bullying incidents that drove a young second lieutenant to mental breakdown is a senior figure within the British Olympic movement, it emerged in the High Court yesterday. Former Lieutenant Simon Clegg, now deputy general secretary of the British Olympic Association, said the junior officer "was not bullied in any way in his time with the Army, of that I am convinced".

Alastair Green is suing the Ministry of Defence and Mr Clegg, along with nine other named officers of the 7th Royal Horse Artillery, claiming episodes of humiliating bullying ten years ago led to his mental breakdown after 19 weeks of a short-term commission.

Mr Clegg, 36, currently organising the European Youth Olympics in Bath, denied he was involved in an incident in which Mr Clegg claims he was dragged from his bedroom and stripped naked in the mess bar at Aldershot. He admitted he was present at another incident in which Mr Green, then aged 19, claims he was stripped naked and strapped to a ceremonial cannon outside the regimental mess with a rose between his buttocks.

Mr Clegg said he was sober when he arrived at the mess as Mr Green was being carried out "ceremonial fashion" from the building before being draped over the cannon. He told Mr Justice Popplewell that all the officers involved had had a lot to drink and Mr Green appeared in no way distressed. "Mr Green revelled in being the centre of attraction. He was a popular officer. I am not trying to paint the regiment whiter than white. We enjoyed working hard and playing hard."

Another of the named officers, Nigel Bedford, now a Lieutenant Colonel, accepted his career would be finished if Mr Green's allegations were found to be true. "It would have been nothing short of catastrophic for my career if I had taken part in or witnessed this sort of thing," he said.

Lt Col Bedford, who has served in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and northern Iraq, denied Mr Green had ever been bullied. "The officers enjoy practical jokes and exchanging jokes and enjoyed boisterous fun. Mr Green entered fully into the spirit of this. He loved being in the officers' mess and enjoyed being in the company of people who enjoyed life.

"Throughout my career it has constantly been brought home to me by reports in the papers about bullying that that sort of behaviour is not tolerated in the Army, and rightly so."

Lt Col Bedford, who was a Captain and mess secretary at the time of the alleged bullying in 1985, said Mr Green had acquired the nickname "Ten Inch", not as a sarcastic reference to the size of his penis, but because other officers believed him to be a "virgin soldier".

"In the early days, we believed he was a virgin and that it would be a good idea if we helped him lose his virginity. At a particular party I believe he was given the nickname to make him more attractive to members of the opposite sex."

He said virtually everyone in the mess had a nickname. He was called "Bed-pan" and the doctor's wife "Nurse Whip".

Under cross-examination from Sydney Kentridge QC, for Mr Green, Lt Col Bedford denied he and other officers had "closed ranks" and were denying involvement in the bullying to protect themselves.

Mr Green, now 29, and living in Japan where he works as an English teacher, has told the court he was stripped on another occasion after being invited to a toga party in the mess, and also that he had been the victim of a homosexual assault by an officer in his bedroom. The defence denies all the allegations except the cannon incident, in which it says Mr Green was a willing participant.

The named officers along with Mr Clegg and Lieutenant Colonel Bedford are Captains Christopher Lang (now dead), Nicholas Syrett and Marcus Bennion; Majors William Moore, John Murphy, John Buchanan and Jonathan Hull; and Lieutenant Marcus Pakenham (who has not been served with the proceedings and is not represented).

The hearing continues.



Alastair Green in his days as a second lieutenant with the Royal Horse Artillery

Parker Bowles union undone in three minutes

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BRIGADIER Andrew Parker Bowles and his wife Camilla were granted a decree nisi along with 31 other divorcing couples at a three-minute hearing yesterday.

The end of the 21-year marriage was enacted in a small room of bare institutional pallor in Somerset House, a palace of sorrows that houses not only the High Court family division but also the Inland Revenue. Neither party was present. Indeed, no one was present apart from the judge, the court clerk and ten reporters.

Outside in the cold, a lone photographer lurked, awaiting the million-to-one chance that someone recognisable would turn up. He was, naturally, disappointed. Unlike in Mrs Simpson's day, when she had to be hustled off to Ipswich in the vain hope that her hearing would pass unnoticed, the legal act of divorce is painless, clinical and brief.

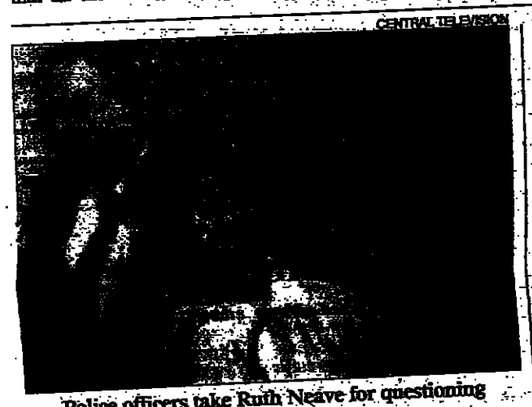
On the door of court 2 was pinned the day's cause list, 32 names in vaguely alphabetical order, with "Parker Bowles, C.R. v A.H." third from bottom. The order of initials showed that A.H. had allowed C.R. to petition him, rather than the other way round. The couple's joint statement last week said they were divorcing by mutual consent, but one party has to set the legal ball rolling, and the informal opinion of lawyers yesterday was that for A.H. to let C.R. do the petitioning was the gentlemanly thing to do.

In her affidavit, which was not produced, Mrs Parker Bowles had stated that it became clear in February 1992 that her marriage had irretrievably broken down; since then her husband had spent only 90 nights in their marital home at Corsham, Wiltshire. Senior District Judge Gerald Angel entered at 10.30. Mrs Carole Burry, the court clerk, switched on a tape recorder and recited the list of 32 names.

The judge glanced briefly around his modest courtroom: "Does any party or person wish to show cause against the decrees being pronounced?" A pause, and silence. "I pronounce the decrees." The judge made an order for costs in another case, rose, and left the court. It was still only 10.33.

Now the Parker Bowleses are free to apply for a decree absolute which, assuming no one comes forward to challenge the petition, will be granted six weeks from today.

□ Ken Stronach, the Prince of Wales's personal valet under royal investigation over newspaper revelations, was yesterday questioned by the Prince's private secretary, Commander Richard Aylard, about his role in the articles.



Police officers take Ruth Neave for questioning

Murdered boy's mother arrested

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE mother of Rikki Neave, the six-year-old boy found naked and strangled close to his home last November, was arrested yesterday by police investigating his murder. Ruth Neave, 26, was being questioned last night at Thorpewood police station in Peterborough.

Police have until 7.30 tonight to continue interviews with Mrs Neave before they must apply to a magistrate for permission to contine holding her in custody.

Rikki was found dead in a copse some 500 yards away from his home on the Welland estate in Peterborough on November 29. He had been strangled.

His body was found after his mother, who has three other children, reported him missing when he failed to return from school.

Rikki did not go to Welland County primary school on the day he vanished, but staff there knew him a an occasional truant and assumed that he was at home with his mother.

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire police said yesterday: "A 26-year-old local woman has been arrested in connection with the murder of Peterborough schoolboy Rikki Neave. I can confirm that she is Rikki Neave's mother."

Mrs Neave has not been living at her home since the murder. She was arrested at another address.



Rikki: school thought he was playing truant

Officials 'milked NHS of £400,000'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO health officials and three businessmen milked nearly £400,000 from the NHS to fund a lavish lifestyle, a court was told yesterday. It was alleged that money paid for consultancy services that were never provided was spent on holidays and tickets for rugby internationals.

David Elfer, for the prosecution, said the conspiracy began after Wessex Regional Health Authority awarded a £1.7 million contract to Abbey Business Consultants for work on its computer system.

The owner of the company was Arthur Tully, described as the "brains and the man with skills to be a puppet master". Mr Elfer said Mr Tully, together with an employee, Richard Haver, and a consultant, William Baillie, hatched the scheme to inflate the contract with two officials of the authority, Hamer Norman and James Lewis.

Winchester Crown Court was told that the operation worked successfully until Mr Norman and Mr Lewis were suspended in 1991. "It was noticed that Lewis had a lot of spare cash," Mr Elfer said.

Mr Tully, 59, of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, Mr Norman, 56, of Winchester, and Mr Baillie, 44, of Romsey, Hampshire, all deny conspiracy to defraud the health authority. Mr Lewis, 57, of Bishopstoke, Hampshire, is too ill to stand trial. Haver, 48, of Chandlers Ford, admitted conspiracy to defraud and will be sentenced at the end of the trial. The case is expected to last ten weeks.

Medieval court blocks plan to give couple a bathroom

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE television presenter Esther Rantzen was yesterday in dispute with a medieval foresters' court over extending a cottage she gave to a homeless family.

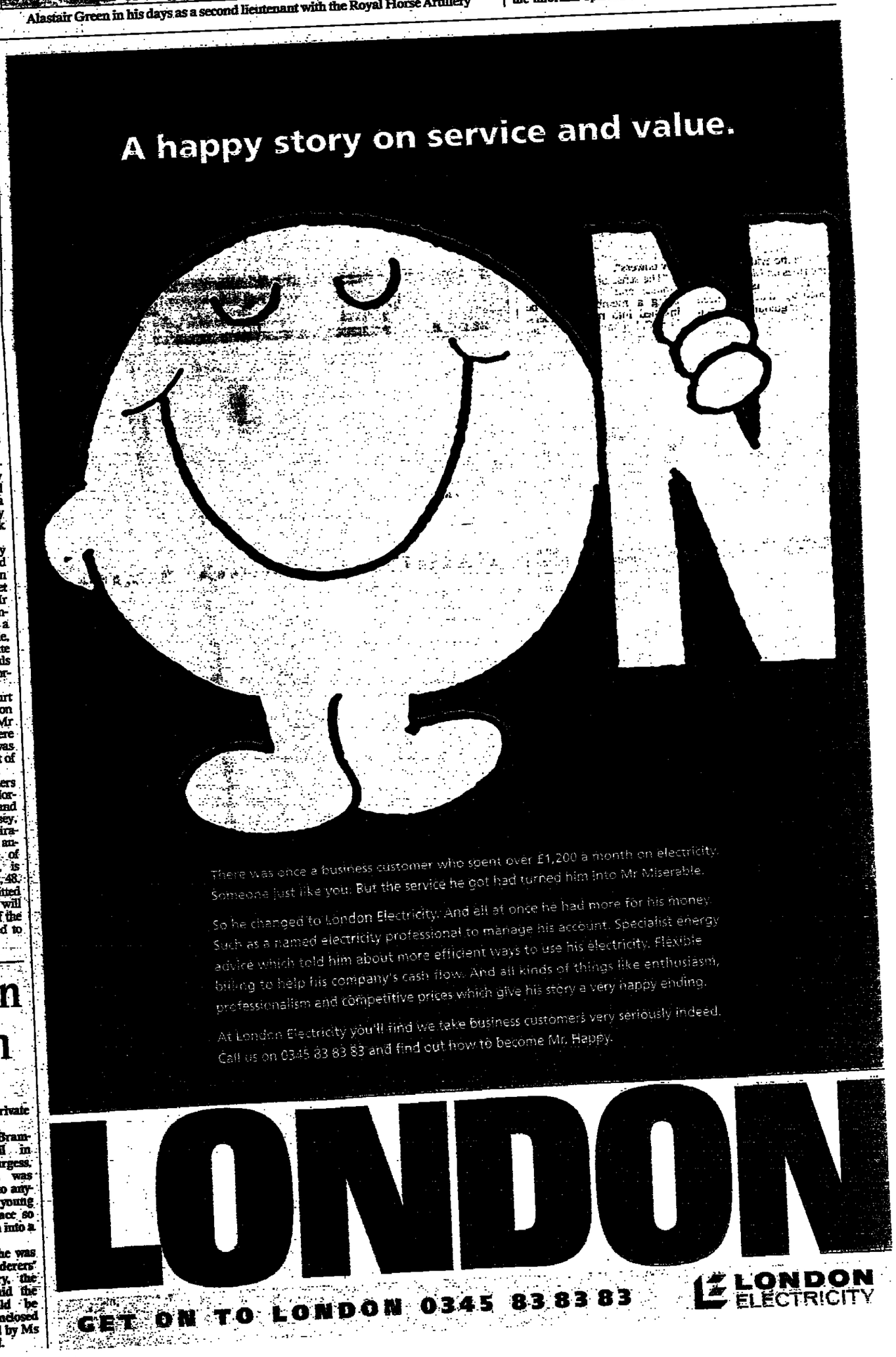
The New Forest Verderers, who are responsible for protecting common land, have blocked a proposal to build a bathroom onto an old gatehouse at Ms Rantzen's farm, which she has given rent-free to Elizabeth Lawrence, her children's former nanny. Mrs Lawrence, 31, her husband Dean, 34, and their two daughters were invited to move in last August when they had to sell their house because of financial problems. Without a bathroom, they have to wash in their daughters' bedroom or walk to Ms Rantzen's weekend farmhouse.

The extension would require 18ft by 9ft of common land so Ms Rantzen and her husband, the producer Desmond Wilcox, offered half-an-acre of their land to the verderers in return.

More than 100 villagers arrived at a meeting in Lyndhurst to give their opinions, only to discover the plan had already been rejected by the verderers at a private meeting.

The chairman of Bramshaw parish council in Hampshire, Jack Sturgess, said: "This decision was made without regard to anyone. We want to keep young families about the place so the village doesn't turn into a geriatric ward."

Ms Rantzen said she was amazed by the verderers' decision. John Burry, the Official Verderer, said the common land could be swapped only for unenclosed land. The plot offered by Ms Ranfzen was enclosed.



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Officers seek evidence against farmer after fresh clashes end in 21 arrests at Brightlingsea docks

Police warn sheep exporter for alleged crowd incitement

By Michael Horsnell



Markham: dismayed by breakdown in relations

THE farmer organising livestock exports from the Essex port of Brightlingsea is under investigation for alleged incitement after a fourth day of ugly confrontations between police and demonstrators which led to 21 arrests.

Richard Otley, 27, whose business has galvanised a middle-class protest against the shipment of animals to the Continent for slaughter, was allegedly seen gesturing to the crowd as 1,200 sheep were taken into the docks under police escort. The Hunmingdon-based farmer was warned by an officer in riot gear after he allegedly made V-signs, blew kisses and smirked at the protesters from the first of the three articulated lorries.

Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham said: "I am of the view that Mr Otley's presence is not conducive to good order and I am taking steps in that direction. He is under observation. If he has committed offences he will be dealt with in the same way as anyone else." An appeal for photographic evidence was made.

Mr Otley, who claims influence in the Conservative Association in the Prime Minister's constituency, said: "The more confrontation I get, the more determined I am to see this through." He is president of the British Association of Sheep Exporters and was fined last year at Dover for ill-treating animals in transit. The £7,000 fine was reduced on appeal to £3,000.

Yesterday the sheep lorries were seen through at 7.30am by 250 police, who are staying at a holiday centre in Clacton. The formed a spearhead formation to push through about 800 demonstrators, including children and elderly people, shortly after giving loudspeaker warnings to keep clear.

The lorries made their 200-yard journey past the cordon in a stop-start exercise that took 40 minutes. Women and children were forced away from pavements where they had previously been told to retreat. Eggs were thrown at the lorries and abuse hurled at Mr Otley, who has a six-month contract to export sheep to the Continent.

An ambulance was called for a person who needed treatment for shock and other people complained of minor injuries and accused the police of brutality. The 21 people arrested included Sue Wheeler, chair of Brightlingsea Against Live Exports (BALE).

The lorries, filled with bleating sheep and smelling strongly of urine, stood in the privately owned docks for more than four hours awaiting the arrival of the Danish ship *NV Caroline*. Gales prevented it from sailing to Nieuwpoort, near Ostend, on the 2pm tide and the sheep were expected to remain in the hold overnight before their nine-hour journey.

Francesca da Silva, a BALE spokesperson, said: "We failed to stop Mr Otley today but the the whole town is determined this trade will stop. We will be here every day for the next six months if necessary."

Mr Markham said that the force may have to seek assistance from other forces. The operation is estimated to have cost nearly £250,000 so far. He said: "I am quite dismayed by the breakdown in relations with the local community. This is a desperate situation and I haven't got many cards to play."

Ric Morgan, the Conservative mayor, disclosed yesterday that the council has taken legal advice in an attempt to ban the exports. He said: "We hope a ban might be possible on the grounds that it is unreasonable to remove the vitality and commerce of this town through this dreadful trade."

The British Veterinary Association said yesterday that protesters were making life worse for the animals. Bob Young, the vice-president, said: "We have heard that hundreds of animals are suffering from stress-induced and stress-related diseases, such as pneumonia, as a result of their journeys being prolonged by protests."

Labour yesterday demanded an immediate ban on the export of calves for rearing abroad in veal crates, and said the Government should compensate farmers.



Brightlingsea: "unreasonable to remove the commerce of this town through this dreadful trade"

CHRIS HARRIS



Marjorie Gray confronts a policeman at the docks: "This is a tyrannical penalty against a small town. I have never felt so angry"

'A tyrannical penalty against a small town'

By Michael Horsnell

MARJORIE GRAY, an 85-year-old retired nurse with a lame leg, leant heavily in protest against a 6ft 2in policeman in riot gear at the Brightlingsea dock gates, refusing to budge. The officer declined to arrest her and listened as she reprimanded him for the heavy-handedness of his colleagues.

Sheep Wars 1995 does not sit easily with the image of the Roman port where the 7,000 law-abiding citizens normally prefer to mind their own business. Miss Gray said: "This is a tyrannical penalty against a small town which is protesting against the invasion of a horrible trade. I have never felt so angry."

Rosemary Catford, 48, said: "I no longer feel as though I am in England. It feels more as if I were in Chile or Uganda. I was proud of my police force. But now it's like a different country. They have forfeited all goodwill." Denise Cardy, 38, a mother of two, will lodge a complaint against police after an encounter with an officer whose number she took. "I was told to move back. He got his hand and just screwed it into my face until my neck was twisted to one side. These are bully-boy tactics."

Peter Watts, 49, said: "My daughter was kneed in the groin and her arm bent up behind her. She is a care assistant, 21 years old. I can scarcely believe the things I see in this quiet, peaceful town." Fred Griffin, 61, a garment technologist who made a pre-retirement move to the town six months ago, said: "There are no militants here. I was standing on the pavement and I got squashed up against the wall by the police. They just punched their way through perfectly well behaved demonstrators." His wife Carol, 50, added: "They have been so brutal. The people of Brightlingsea will never trust the police again."

Para who killed woman at checkpoint loses appeal

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A PARATROOPER jailed for life for murdering a teenager travelling in a joyrider's car in Northern Ireland lost his appeal against conviction yesterday. A unanimous judgment by five law lords dismissed the appeal by Private Lee Clegg, 26, who is serving his sentence in Wakefield jail, West Yorkshire.

The decision is a setback to The Parachute Regiment, which has been campaigning to have the conviction reduced to manslaughter. Officers said last night that the "fight for justice" would continue.

Julian Brazier, Conservative MP for Canterbury, said the judgment would cause great worry among soldiers in Northern Ireland. "I think it is a horrifying decision. We want a pardon for Private Clegg."

Clegg, a member of 3 Battalion, was convicted at Belfast Crown Court in 1993 of the murder of Karen Reilly, 18, from West Belfast. She died after he opened fire on a Vauxhall Astra car speeding through a checkpoint in the nationalist part of the city in September 1990.

Clegg maintained that he acted in self-defence when he opened fire, believing the car contained terrorists. In their judgment, the Law Lords said that while a person acting in self-defence or a police officer arresting an offender had a choice about the degree of force used, a soldier in Northern Ireland had "no scope for graduated force".

Lord Lloyd of Berwick said: "The only choice lay between firing a high-velocity rifle which, if aimed accurately, was almost certain to kill or injure, and doing nothing at all." There was no case in law for reducing the conviction to manslaughter. Such a decision was a matter for legislation.

A spokesman for The Parachute Regiment said: "We are disappointed with the decision. The regiment will give every support it can through the necessary channels to obtain the release of one of our colleagues convicted of an offence while doing his duty."

Wyn Johnson, Clegg's mother, said: "We just can't believe what has happened. We will continue fighting for him."

Mary Reilly, Karen Reilly's mother, said last night from her home on the Twinbrook estate in West Belfast: "The last four years have been like an ongoing nightmare, but I'm glad it's all over. This was a good judgment, and now he's definitely not getting out."

Girl survives transplant

By Marianne Darch

A COUPLE who raised almost £1 million for a liver transplant centre after their three-year-old daughter developed the same liver condition that killed her sister heard yesterday that she had made a full recovery after a transplant operation.

Surgeons at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, said that Julie Maguire, now 13, was doing well. Her parents, Peter and Margaret, said she could be out within weeks. "For the first time in 13 years we have a daughter with rosy cheeks and a new life," they said.

The Maguires launched their ten-year fund-raising drive after their first daughter, Joanne, died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1980. "In those days there were no liver transplants for children. Nothing could be done for Joanne," said Mr Maguire, 48, who works for the Ministry of Defence in Gosport.

Determined to help others, they set up a charity to buy equipment for the transplant centre at Addenbrooke's. Their hopes were boosted in 1984 when Ben Hardwick became the first child to receive a liver at the hospital. Now the unit performs an average of 25 transplants a year.

Sue Falvey, the hospital's transplant co-ordinator said: "The money raised by their charity enables us to buy new equipment that the NHS can't afford."

Mr Maguire said the campaign would go on. "The transplant unit will always need more money," he said. "We will carry on for all the parents who are going through what we have been through with Julie."



Peter and Margaret Maguire with their daughter, Julie, who is recovering from a transplant operation

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Confusion over security service's expanding role as chief constables announce £1.5bn drug haul

Police challenge MI5 drug crime ambitions

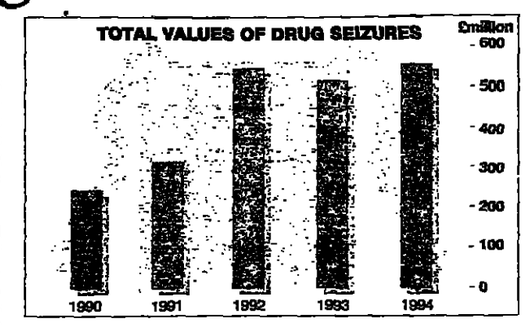
By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

CHIEF constables are at odds with Stella Rimington, Director-General of MI5, over the security service's ambitions to move into investigating drug trafficking and international crime.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and chairman of a chief constables' committee on drugs, said yesterday that senior officers needed "clarification" of MI5's position over expansion into traditional police work.

The conflict surfaced yesterday after it was announced that illegal drugs worth nearly £1.5 billion had been seized or stopped from reaching Britain's streets last year by Customs and police operations against hundreds of trafficking gangs.

Mr Hellawell, speaking at the announcement of the drugs figures, said he had been "slightly surprised" by Mrs Rimington's comment at a recent lecture to police that MI5 hoped to undertake drugs and international crime work. He said that last spring, in a speech to chief constables, she had given an assurance that MI5 would not become involved in such work.



Some senior police officers believe MI5, faced with the possibility of demands for sharp manpower cuts as Irish terrorism diminishes, has already begun making soundings in Whitehall. MI5 sources have confirmed that they could be interested in investigating drug trafficking and international crime. Three years ago MI5 won a behind-the-scenes battle with police over the lead role in terrorist intelligence work, especially concerning the IRA and loyalist groups. The Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, liaises with Customs officers on drugs investigations abroad. It may also face job cuts and may want to claim some of the work.

Bill Taylor, Commissioner of the City of London Police and head of a chief constable's committee on crime policy, is to approach Mrs Rimington for more details of what she has in mind.

At the announcement of the drugs figures for 1994, Dick Kellaway, head of Customs investigations, said 51 tonnes of drugs worth £550 million had been discovered. The operations and arrests disrupted 214 drug gangs and prevented drugs worth another £900 million reaching this country. Intelligence passed on to other countries had led to the seizure of drugs worth £353 million.

Mr Kellaway said that trafficking continued to escalate, although the success of counter-operations had forced South American networks to avoid Britain and take greater precautions.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster-General, said fears over the relaxation of border controls in the Single Market had proved unfounded. Intelligence and investigation work had been effective. Last year 40 per cent of drugs came via the European Union, similar to previous years.

There was a huge rise in cocaine seizures, up from 679 kg in 1993 to 2,205 kg. The total was lower than the record of 2,250 kg in 1992, but that was set after several large consignments had been discovered. Mr Kellaway said there was evidence that traffickers realised that Britain was a high-risk destination for drugs. Couriers were paid more to smuggle the drugs into Britain than for other countries.

Traffickers were trying to take advantage of the weakness of defences in Eastern Europe. One consignment of 1.19 tonnes of cocaine found on a ship bound for Poland would have eventually been smuggled west overland. About 350 kg was found in jars of peaches and figs en route to the Czech Republic.

There was a record seizure of heroin totalling 620 kg, up 2.3 per cent from 1993. South-west Asia remains the main source, via Turkey. The heroin was worth £57 million on the street, and equivalent to 280 million medical doses.

The haul of synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy and LSD totalled 1,183 kg last year, a rise of 2.5 per cent. Cannabis seizures were down slightly to 47,000 kg, although Mr Kellaway said the record figure for 1993 was distorted by one single large seizure of 17 tonnes and the 1994 figures included 10 tonnes found at Felixstowe.



Smugglers use ingenious methods to try to import drugs. The jar above left contains peaches; the other is filled with artificial fruit containing cocaine, top right. The inner sole of the training shoe, bottom right, conceals heroin

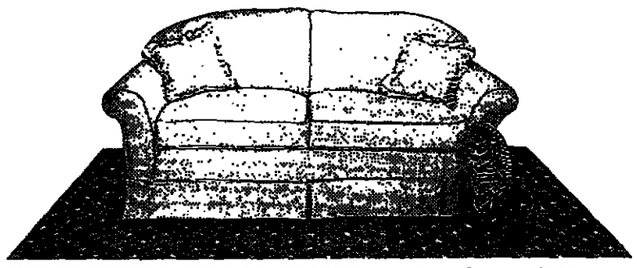
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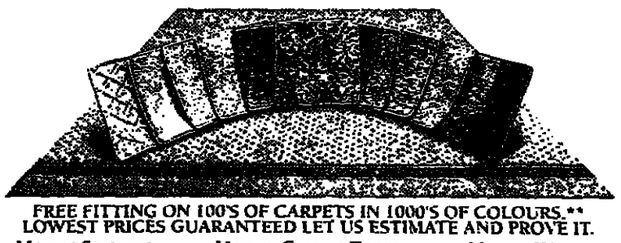


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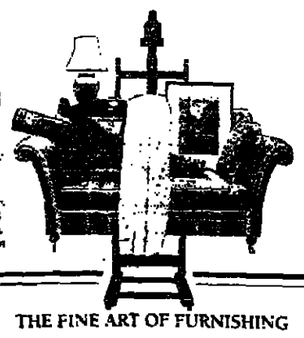
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THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

Listeners attack BBC for shelving radio services

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

BBC Radio 4 is to drop its Sunday morning church services for a month despite protests from some listeners.

Rachel Mawhood, of the listeners' organisation Radio 4 Watch, said yesterday that she was dismayed at the BBC's decision to replace services with a religious affairs discussion programme during February. Ms Mawhood, who helped to lead the successful listeners' campaign in 1993 against BBC plans to axe Radio 4 Long Wave, said: "There is not much that is specifically religious on BBC radio. It is as if the people at the BBC want to get on the secular or humanist bandwagon."

Last month it emerged that the corporation was considering opening the *Thought for the Day* spot on Radio 4's *Today* programme to humanists. It was also disclosed that the Rev Ernest Rea, head of religious broadcasting, is preparing a report for John Birt, the Director-General, examining the possibility of humanist broadcasts.

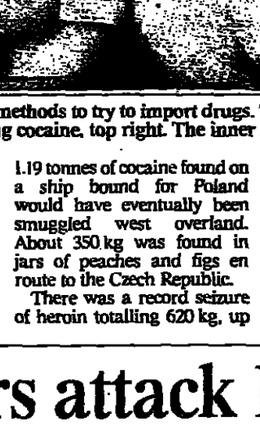
***Morning Service* is broadcast on Radio 4 every Sunday at 9.30am. The 45-minute programme complements the 15-minute *Daily Service* that goes out at 10am on weekdays. After *The Archers* omnibus and the news, *Morning Service* is Radio 4's most popular Sunday programme, attracting an average of more than 1.3 million listeners. Jocelyn Hay, of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said that the Sunday and weekday services were enormously important to a large number of listeners, many housebound, who arranged their days around the broadcasts.**

"BBC mandarins have been surprised over the years at the steadiness and even the growth in the audience for these broadcasts. I understand that they might feel there is a demand for an alternative religious programme, but it seems a pity that they could not find another slot for it," she said. Hosted by the award-winning broadcaster Rosemary Hartill, *Were You There?*, which is temporarily replacing *Morning Service*, will run for four weeks from February 5. It will tackle emotional and practical issues common to human experience. The first programme deals with how people balance work and play.

Claire Campbell-Smith, the programme's producer, said: "We hope to do occasional series, the aim of which is to offer something to our religious listeners but also to interest those who are less inclined towards traditional services." She said *Morning Service* would be back in March and that a *Were You There?* series during Lent last year had won the Sandford St Martin Award and was popular with listeners.

Radio 4's aim to increase the accessibility of its religious programmes mirrors similar efforts by television broadcasters who fear that core audiences for these programmes may be dying out.

ITV recently launched *Sunday Brunch*, a morning magazine hosted by Janey Lee Grace, a pop singer and late-night disc jockey with Richard Branson's radio station Virgin 1215. BBC1's new rival magazine *Heart and Soul* is hosted by the pop star David Grant.



Janey Lee Grace: hosts ITV religious show

Leading article, page 19

Newspaper libelled Sultan with tax slur

By Frances Gibb

A FORMER king of Malaysia was awarded undisclosed damages in the High Court yesterday against a newspaper that claimed he was among "mega rich foreign monarchs who don't pay a penny in taxes on their companies in Britain".

The *Daily Mirror* paid compensation believed to run to five figures and costs to Sultan Azlan Shah, hereditary ruler of the Malaysian state of Perak and a former Chief Justice and Lord President of Malaysia. He had sued over an article that appeared in 1993 that said: "If he and a few other mega rich foreign monarchs were liable to the same rules as everyone else, the Government would not need to put VAT on fuel." Reference was made to extravagant lifestyles.

Peter Carter-Ruck, for the sultan, told Mr Justice Drake that the newspaper now acknowledged that the sultan did not claim sovereign immunity in respect of his taxes in this country; did not own a Gulf Stream jet or go on shopping sprees to Beverly Hills, and did not play roulette or own any racehorses.

Harvey Starte, counsel for the *Daily Mirror*, said the newspaper accepted the allegations were without foundation.

Sheehan on Bridge

Dealer North — Love all

North: ♠J10854 ♥AQ63 ♦6 ♣K92
West: ♠K9763 ♥— ♦K87 ♣AJ864
East: ♠Q2 ♥KJ54 ♦J1053 ♣1073
South: ♠A ♥109872 ♦AQ942 ♣Q5

Contract: South plays Four Hearts Doubled. Opening lead: ♦7

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

This is a hand from last month's England-Wales match. When England were North-South the declarer failed in Four Hearts after a spade lead. The Welsh declarer, John Glubb, was doubled by East after West had overcalled in spades. He received the more helpful lead of a diamond from West.

At first sight the contract appears to be easy, with only three potential losers: one in clubs and two in the trump suit. But that does not mean that there are ten easy winners available. Because of the strength of North-South's trump intermediates, it looks as if a cross-ruff could be a possible route to success. It is set in stone that when you are planning to embark on a cross-ruff, you should first establish, and then cash, any side-suit winners.

Following this principle, after winning the ten of diamonds with queen the declarer cashed the ace of spades, and led a small club towards the king. West played low, and after taking the king of clubs the declarer proceeded as follows: spade ruff, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff.

When another spade was played from dummy East discarded his fourth diamond. After ruffing the spade the declarer had taken seven tricks (ace of spades, ace-queen of diamonds, king of clubs, one diamond ruff and two spade ruffs). His remaining trumps were ten-nine-eight opposite ace-queen-six in dummy. He continued by ruffing a diamond with the ace of hearts. Now a spade from the table left East helpless — he could either give South two trump tricks immediately by ruffing in with the jack of hearts, or he could discard and allow the promotion to occur after the declarer had ruffed a spade and ruffed another diamond with the queen of hearts.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Resignation puzzle

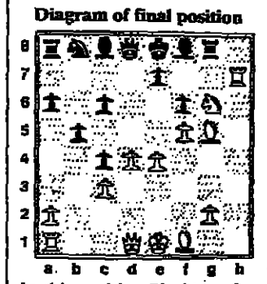
In the fourth round of the international tournament in Gausdal, Norway, the Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers won a startling miniature game in 15 moves. Rogers shares the lead with London player Andrew Kinsman.

White: Rogers
Black: Enqvist

Slav Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	c6
3	Nc3	d5
4	Nf3	a6
5	Bg5	Ne4
6	h4	Nxc3
7	bxc3	dxc4
8	e4	b5
9	Ne5	Be6
10	f4	g6
11	h5	Rg8
12	hxg6	hxg6
13	Rh7	f6
14	f5	Bc8
15	Nxg6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



In this position Black's resignation seems somewhat premature. A prize of a six-month subscription to the *British Chess Magazine* for the best explanation of why Black resigned (instead of playing on with 15 . . . fxg5), to reach me at *The Times* by January 26.

Adams out

The British grandmaster Michael Adams failed to join Nigel Short in the quarter-finals of the knockout tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Holland, losing to Germany's Christopher Lutz.

White: Adams
Black: Lutz

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	e6
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	d6
6	Be3	Nf6
7	Qd2	Be7
8	f3	0-0
9	0-0-0	d5
10	exd5	Nxd5
11	Nxd5	Qxd5
12	Nxc6	Qxc6
13	Bd3	e5
14	Qa5	Qf6
15	h4	b6
16	Qa4	Bb7
17	Bg5	Qe6
18	Bxe7	Qxe7
19	Be4	Bxe4
20	Qxe4	Rad8
21	a3	f5
22	Qc4+	Qf7
23	Qd7+	Kxd7
24	Rxd8	Rxd8
25	Rd1	Rxd1+
26	Kxd1	b5
27	Kd2	Ke6
28	b3	Kd5
29	Kd3	a5
30	Ke3	a4
31	h5	b4
White resigns		

Winning Move, page 44

هكذا من الأصل

Car-free zones proposed to cut pollutants linked with cancer and breathing difficulties

Gummer unveils plan to improve nation's air quality

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

CAR-FREE zones will soon be declared in Britain's cities, under a strategy to improve air quality announced by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, yesterday.

Councils are to be required to draw up air-quality management plans detailing how they will tackle local pollution and blackspots. Mr Gummer also announced that there would be national targets, to be met by 2005, for nine pollutants, including benzene and oxides of nitrogen which have been linked with cancer and breathing difficulties.

Mr Gummer has angered environmentalists by not setting limits for ozone, a pollutant linked with smog, breathing difficulties and asthma attacks. The Government claims that much of the ozone that forms over Britain is blown from the Continent, and that the European Community needs to take tougher action against it. However, Fiona Weir, of Friends of the Earth, said the omission reflected government concern that a standard for ozone



Gummer: to set no limit for ozone levels

proposed last year by the Environment Department's own advisers could not be met by industry and car-makers.

The air-quality plans, to be drafted by 1997, are expected to advocate pedestrian-only areas, speed restrictions, and involving businesses. Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air, said firms could be encouraged to restrict parking and replace company cars with free passes for public trasnport.

The plans may also a include last-resort measures to ban cars and lorries on roads where pollution is notorious, because of heavy traffic, high buildings and weather conditions. The Department of the Environment said yesterday that councils had powers under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 to close roads. Officials believe that the powers could be applied at times of persistently poor air quality.

Similar powers are held by the Government to restrict traffic on trunk roads and motorways, but Mr Gummer said they would not be needed. He said the planning system would achieve reductions in fumes, by promoting schemes that reduce car travel and put offices, homes, and facilities at the hub of public transport networks.

Mr Gummer said that meanwhile air quality was being improved by stricter emissions tests and the introduction of catalytic converters on vehicles.

Steven Norris, the junior transport minister, said: "We believe that by 2005 we will see carbon monoxide levels falling by 65 per cent, volatile organic compounds including benzene falling by 86 per cent and oxide of nitrogen by 66 per cent."

Mr Gummer said councils would be given computer links to government monitoring stations so they could issue more accurate pollution alerts.

New legislation will be needed for some of the strategy including local authority air-quality management plans. Mr Brown said it was needed urgently if the 2005 targets were to be met.

The Department of Trade and Industry's deregulation unit and the Treasury have been worried that new powers for councils could increase red tape for business. Their delaying tactics have made it difficult for Mr Gummer to find a slot for the necessary legislation. But the Environment Secretary is expected to score a political victory over trade and industry officials by endorsing an amendment backed by the National Society for Clean Air to the Environmental Agencies Bill. The amendment, which would bring in air-quality laws is currently before the House of Lords. Mr Gummer said yesterday that he welcomed the specific air-quality initiatives proposed by London councils under a separate Bill before Parliament, for the capital. It contains provisions for council staff to test and issue fines for polluting vehicles.

Some clean-air campaigners, local councils and health groups welcomed the announcement of the national strategy. But the Association of London Authorities said that it would require additional funding to be effective.

☐ Westminster council installed the first kerbside monitor for vehicle exhaust soot particles in Oxford Street last month and it is undergoing trials. The council uses a laser to monitor background pollution and is shortly to issue daily predictions of levels.

DYLAN MARTINEZ



By 2005, carbon monoxide levels on roads are predicted to fall 65 per cent and benzene levels by 86 per cent

Solicitor 'banker' in mortgage swindle

A CROOKED solicitor acted as the "banker" in a multi-million-pound mortgage fraud involving scores of properties across southern England, a court was told yesterday. Some of the illegally raised cash was used to help to develop a museum dedicated to Sherlock Holmes.

Much of the four-year swindle was carried out in the late 1980s, at the height of the property boom. Since then at least £7 million of the fraudsters' gains had disappeared without trace.

Charles Miskin, for the prosecution, told the sentencing hearing at Wood Green Crown Court, north London, that one objective was to create a string of properties to rent out. David Sachs, 50, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who used to run a sole practice in Kensington, played a leading role in the swindle, which involved bogus identities, multiple applications on the same property and fictional references. Sachs has admitted two counts of plotting to defraud.

In the dock with Sachs was John Aidiniantz, 37, of Belgravia, London, convicted of obtaining £1.2 million by deception. Also before the court were William Eaglen, 46, another solicitor, convicted of plotting to defraud, and John Skok, 35, and Liam Leroy, 36, who both admitted similar counts. The hearing continues.

'League table' for fertility clinics

By Jeremy Laurance

SUCCESS rates for fertility clinics are to be published after pressure from patients' groups worried that some centres were concealing their figures.

The decision has been taken by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. Success rates among the 116 clinics that it has licensed vary from 4 per cent live births per cycle of treatment to more than 21 per cent. A cycle of treatment typically costs £2,000-£2,500. Most patients have more than one attempt and some require a dozen or more.

Yesterday the authority issued a consultation paper on how the information is to be published to ensure it is clear to patients and fair to clinics. Some clinics take older patients or those with more difficult problems, so the authority proposes an adjusted rate. The first success rates, for treatment in 1993, will be published next summer. Ruth Deech, the newly appointed chairwoman of the authority, said: "The information is there and it seems wrong not to publish it."

The overall success rate of clinics rose from 8.6 per cent live births per cycle of treatment in 1985 to 13.8 per cent in 1991 but dipped in 1992 to 12.7 per cent. The natural rate of conception is 20 per cent per cycle.

Switch-on at first solar power office block

By Paul Wilkinson

BRITAIN'S only solar-powered office block was formally switched on yesterday, with computers, lifts, lights and fans powered by energy generated from 450 panels mounted on its outside walls.

Only on particularly dull days will the National Grid help out at the University of Northumbria's computer centre in Newcastle upon Tyne. Its creators expect that during the summer vacation the system will produce more power than required and the surplus can be fed into the rest of the campus.

The £1.5 million solar refit of the 1960s Northumberland Building is the high point in 20 years' work by Professor Bob Hill, 57, head of the university's photo-voltaics applications centre. Yesterday he predicted that by 2020 solar-powered buildings would be common.

Prof Hill believes that by setting up such a system in a region not noted for its sunshine, he will silence critics who claim solar power can never be successful in Britain's climate. "We know that it will work but proving it is another thing," he said.

Prof Hill said that as the cost of solar cells dropped their use would increase, making them affordable to all companies by the start of the next century.

Storms drive up price of fish

By Robin Barnwell

A WEEK of storms is putting pressure on fish prices. Fresh cod and haddock are selling from £3.20 to £3.40 a lb for large fillets and whiting from £1 to £1.80 a lb. Brill is available from around £3 a lb and Dover sole £5 a lb. Native oysters, however, are well priced at around 50p a shell.

Vegetable bargains include Spanish onions at 35p to 45p a lb; English Brussels sprouts at 29p to 40p a lb; and French golden delicious apples at 35p to 52p a lb.

Advertised best buys include:

Asda: Fresh turkey breast steaks £1.79 a lb; English red dessert apples 65p a 2lb pack; braising steak £1.75 a lb; 800g granary loaf 55p.

Budgen: Fresh chicken legs £1.69 a 2lb 4oz pack; vanilla dairy ice cream 69p a litre; 400g low fat sausages 99p.

Co-op: 600g Kelloggs Rice Krispies £1.69; 680g Pommes Noisettes 57p; fresh minced beef 99p a lb; 200g low fat soft cheese 59p.

Harrods: 100g Serrano ham £2.95; Caboc cheese £2.50 each; heart-shaped mousse de la mer £6.65 each; salmon tartare £5.20 each.

Iceland: 20 beefburgers £3.29; pepperoni pizza £1.49; 30 cod bites 99p; mandarin cheesecake £1.49.

Marks and Spencer: Boiled British gammon £5.99 a lb; 600g fresh fruit salad £1.99; 240 extra strong tea bags £2.99; 10 crumpets 42p; chicken breast plate pie £2.65.

Safeway: 454g lean mince beef £1.78; 454g Cumberland sausage 74p; red and white Bulgarian country wine £2.09.

Sainsbury: 400g wafer thin turkey and ham £1.49; 200ml half fat crème fraiche 59p; 1kg broccoli £1.49; 3 250ml orange/apple fruit juices 79p; 1kg porridge oats 55p.

Somerfield: Fresh pork loin chops £1.09 a lb; 500g prepacked tomatoes 55p; 295g Heinz weightwatchers' beef lasagne 99p; 400g shortcake biscuits 34p.

Tesco: White seedless grapes £1.49 a lb; 454g Lincolnshire sausages 99p; 1kg pack of cooking onions 59p; stewing steak £1.68 a lb.

Waitrose: Scotch beef diced braising steak £2.69 a lb; three British pork loin steaks £1.69; 250g dwarf corn £1.49; trout fillets £3.59 a lb.

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Indecision remains over Britain's role in the EU

Tory rebels in disarray after manifesto launch

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT of the whipless Tory Euro-rebels launched a manifesto yesterday aimed at reshaping the party's agenda on Europe, but they were split over the best way forward.

The rebels, who are demanding a removal of power from Brussels, said that the Tories would lose the next general election unless they changed tack on Europe.

The proposals include disbanding the European Parliament, rejecting monetary union, restricting the powers of the European Union and abolishing the common fisheries policy and common agricultural policy.

Although the objectives appear entirely at odds with membership of the European Union, the rebels were split over whether they wanted Britain to pull out altogether. Many of the rebels also felt that the public should be consulted over Europe but the group was divided on whether a referendum should be held.

WHAT THE DOCUMENT SAYS

- ☐ Scrap the principle of economic and monetary union and allow each nation to arrange its own economic policies
- ☐ Replace the European Parliament with a European Assembly of MPs nominated by national parliaments
- ☐ Stop European Union treaties covering foreign affairs and defence
- ☐ End the right of the European Court to intervene in national policies
- ☐ Curtail the EU budget and end all interventionist subsidies
- ☐ Tackle the Common Agricultural Policy by restoring responsibility for agriculture to national governments
- ☐ Replace the Common Fisheries Policy with a similar shift of responsibility to member states
- ☐ Allow member states to ban export of live animals

The MPs vehemently denied that they wished to bring down the Government despite having voted against it on fishing policy 12 hours earlier. They were not trying to "bash" the Government, merely to offer suggestions for improvement, the MPs said. But they also made clear that they were in no hurry to have the whip restored.

Tony Marlow said: "Unless the Conservative Party gets its policies right on Europe, the Conservative Government will not be re-elected at the next general election. Our aim, our objective is to see a Conservative victory at the next election."

Eight of the nine whipless rebels signed up to the 1,000-word manifesto: Teresa Gorman, Sir Richard Body, Christopher Gill, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor, John Wilkinson, Tony Marlow and Nicholas Budgen.

Michael Carttiss, the remaining whipless MP, did not take part in yesterday's event and has not attended any of the rebels' recent meetings. Nicholas Budgen was a reluctant participant.

On Wednesday Mr Budgen signalled that he would not attend the press conference but he changed his mind after deciding he wanted to put his views across. Some of the rebels are privately concerned that their colleagues may want to go too far in trying to loosen ties with Europe.

The manifesto argues that the aim of the negotiations for the 1996 inter-governmental conference should be to seek "substantial repatriation of decision making". If this proved impossible "our aim should be to seek a separate relationship with the EU, possibly on the basis of free trade and friendship only". The MPs add: "We should also make it clear that the UK will in no circumstances agree to further EU funding until progress is made."

The rebels claimed the support of most Tory MPs, party members and the public. John Wilkinson said: "We believe we represent the majority of the people of this country. We have been overwhelmed by the expressions of support which we have received."

Mr Marlow said that there was no democratic consent for the Government's present stance on Europe. "We are out of touch with people. The tide of European federalism has got to go back."

Sir Teddy Taylor insisted that the rebels were not a party within a party and denied that they thought the European issue was more important than maintaining a Tory Government. "What we're suggesting is a constructive solution, not in any sense to try and bash the Government, but simply to say: 'There are huge problems here'."

The rebels were immediately criticised by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. He accused them of trying to undermine British efforts to win a better deal in Europe.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, also exploited their action. "John Major will never command the respect of the country when he is treated with contempt by Conservative MPs," he said. "He offered his rebels an olive branch and today they snapped it in two."

Leading article and Letters, page 19



Lack of candour blurs fantastic view of Europe

Model opinions

The Tory Euro-rebels are trying to have the best of both worlds — and they are getting away with it. They want to engage in the Tory party debate over European policy and have the freedom to rebel. Only hours after seven of the nine MPs without the whip voted against the Government on fisheries, they produced a policy paper or manifesto totally incompatible with Britain's continued membership of the European Union.

But yesterday both John Major and Tory business managers offered a remarkably tolerant response. There was no rebuke and no hint that the rebels' conduct had made it harder for them to have the whip restored. Rather, the impression was that the Government is desperate for them to return to the fold as quickly as possible. No wonder, Tory pro-Europeans are increasingly worried about the Prime Minister's tilt in a Euro-sceptic direction. But many Tory MPs are keen for the rift to end soon now they think they have forced Labour on the defensive.

Reversing what turns out to have been a tactical mistake over removal of the Tory whip may make sense. But there will be a price if the Tory rebels appear to have won. Not only can the Government not afford repeated revolts like the one on Wednesday evening, but the rebels' views would split the party and the Government apart. Their manifesto, heavily influenced by Sir Teddy Taylor, has echoes of the "impossibilist" demands of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency in the 1980s. The group's eight aims for European policy — ranging from repatriation of agricultural and fisheries policy, via scrapping of economic and monetary union, to stopping the European Court from intervening in national policies — amount to a dismantling of the present European Union. Their demands would in effect tear up not only the Maastricht Treaty but also the Treaty of Rome.

The rebel MPs claim to be speaking for a large number of people in the Tory party and in the country. They probably do echo widespread public frustrations about Brussels interference. But despite their claims to honesty and clarity, and the long-standing hostility of many to British participation in the European Union, their manifesto blurs the implications. It is a fantasy to pretend that the rest of the EU would ever agree to "substantial repatriation of decision making". The document states that "if such an endeavour should prove to be impossible, our national aim should be to seek a separate relationship with the EU, possibly on the basis of free trade and friendship only". That in practice means withdrawal and the Euro-rebels should have been candid enough to admit as much. Faced with such a choice, even in a referendum, my hunch is that the British public would again vote in favour of entry.

Differences within the group emerged at the news conference. Some take absolutist positions. Others, notably Nicholas Budgen, are more cautious. He does not expect all the manifesto aims to be achieved. What he wanted was looser relations between Britain and the rest of Europe and for the Cabinet to clarify its position after Mr Major's comments that he would veto any major constitutional changes at the inter-governmental conference next year. The rebels have a point when they argue that Mr Major's latest position of "thus far and no further" on consitutional changes is inconsistent with the views of most European leaders.

Sir Teddy Taylor, Richard Shepherd, Tony Marlow and the others have strongly held views on the issue. They are widely shared. But there is a danger of pretending that their views can be encompassed within Mr Major's general formula. They cannot. He is not doing his party any favours in the long term if he fails to point out the drastic, and divisive, implications of the Euro-rebels' manifesto.

PETER RIDDELL

Mayhew stays silent on secret deal claim

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Northern Ireland Secretary faced hostile questioning in the Commons yesterday when he refused six times to deny that the Government had forged a secret deal to secure Unionist support in Wednesday's fisheries vote.

Six Ulster Unionist MPs voted with the Government and three abstained on Wednesday, helping the Prime Minister to stave off defeat by nine votes.

Sir Patrick Mayhew repeatedly sidestepped questions on whether the Government had bought the Unionists' support with a promise not to set up an all-Ireland fishing body.

David Alton (Lib Dem, Liverpool Mossley Hill) told him: "Your failure to say that the Government is not involved in some sort of specific agreement will be read as confirmation that it is."

Seamus Mallon (SDLP Newry and Armagh) said the Government was daily having "its nose tweaked" by the "bullying" Unionists.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a statement from Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, about next week's Commons business. There were also debates on the Legal Aid Advisory Committee (Dissolution) Order and farm and conservation grant regulations. In the Lords, the Environment Bill spent its second day in committee.

TODAY: In the Commons, there will be a second reading debate on the Home Energy Conservation Bill, a private member's Bill from Diana Maddock (Lib Dem, Christchurch). The Lords are not sitting.

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Five Britons kidnapped by Sierra Leone rebels

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIVE Britons working for a Swiss-owned mining company in Sierra Leone have been kidnapped by armed rebels, the firm said yesterday. They were among ten Europeans seized on Wednesday after days of fierce fighting between the guerrillas and government troops in the area.

British diplomats were trying to send a message to the kidnappers urging them to release the hostages. They were named yesterday by the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company as James Westwood, the managing director, and his wife Sheila, Ross Mills, the operations manager, Thomas Collins and Daniel Cardam.

The Government airlifted a heavily armed rapid deployment force to the Mokanji Hills, in the south, to try to track down the kidnappers, and soldiers were reported to be fighting suspected rebels near the site. Keili Conteh, the army Chief of Staff, claimed that his troops were winning the battle.

Whitehall officials yesterday expressed pessimism about an early end to the kidnapping. Two other Britons working for Voluntary Service Overseas are still being held after they were kidnapped by rebels last November at Kabala, about 155 miles northeast of Freetown, the capital. Foday Sankoh, the rebel leader, threatened a week ago to kill them if the military Government executed an officer accused of working with the guerrillas.

British diplomats in Freetown have been in touch with those holding the two volunteers, rather than relying too heavily on government help, and were hoping that they would be released soon. "Now the situation is a great deal more serious," one said yesterday.

The rebels fighting the Government of Captain Valentine Strasser have been demanding that all foreign troops and advisers leave the country. As part of their campaign they have targetted Europeans and those working in the mines. On January 4, Robert Gaas, a Swiss, was kidnapped, and an unidentified Russian was seized late last year.

Captain Strasser, 28, seized power from President Momoh after a coup in 1992 with a promise to end the revolt by Mr Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front, which began in 1991.

The military leader, who was seriously wounded by guerrillas before he took power, accused the Momoh administration of corruption, self-indulgence, neglect of the army and mishandling of the war against the rebels. However, they control most of the east of the country and earlier this month Captain Strasser said that he would step up the military campaign if they refused to negotiate a settlement.

Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest countries, relies for its foreign earnings on the mines, which are run mostly by foreign companies. Security has now been stepped up at the American-owned Sierra Rutile mine, which is protected by a small staff of US Marines.

Captain Strasser, who has promised multi-party elections and a return to democracy by December, last year began a series of reforms to bring more discipline to the army. His Government executed 12 soldiers for crimes including robbery, murder and helping the rebels.



Children welcome the Pope to St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney yesterday where he celebrated Mass with the Sisters of St Joseph

Pope met by protesting nuns in Sydney

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

MORE than 200 Australian nuns staged a silent protest against the Pope's refusal to countenance the ordination of women to the priesthood when he spoke at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sydney yesterday.

Their protest forced the Pope to speak about the role of women in the church, although the nuns of the Order of Sisters of St Joseph, wearing lay clothes, refused to comment on the issue after their protest.

During the service the Pope acknowledged the issue, which has caused great controversy in the Catholic Church, saying: "I am convinced that a mistake in anthropology is at the root of the failure of society to understand church teaching and the true role of women. That role is in no way diminished but is in fact enhanced and liberated in a special way by motherhood."

The Pope was showing signs of fatigue by the end of his address, falling back into his chair and appearing to shake at one stage. But he carried out the main purpose of his Australian visit, the beatification of Mother Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The ceremony, during which the 19th-century nun, the daughter of Scottish immigrants, became entitled to be addressed as "Blessed" — the stage immediately before "Saint" — was held in front of a congregation of 200,000 at Sydney's Randwick racecourse.

Mother Mary, born in Melbourne in 1852, co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph, which is dedicated to performing social services. The Order, which was self-governing from the start, annoyed the church authorities who denounced the founder as an alcoholic. In 1871 she was even excommunicated for five months.

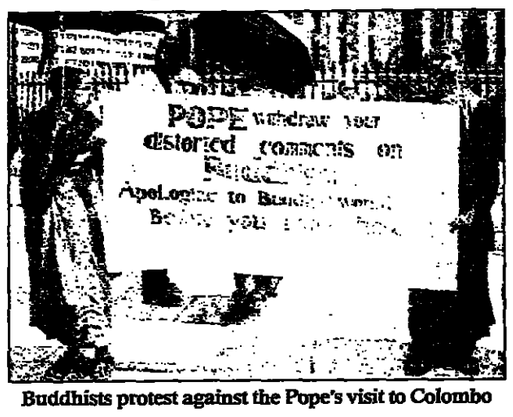
The Pope arrives today in Sri Lanka where 70 per cent of the country's 17 million population is Buddhist.

Buddhist monks have threatened to boycott the visit as a protest against remarks made in the Pope's recent book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. Some passages are seen as criticial of Buddhist beliefs. The Catholic Church in Sri Lanka has expressed its regret on behalf of the Pope, but one Buddhist monk has threatened self-immolation.

The island's Catholic bishops said that their joy at the visit had been "impaired" by the dispute and expressed regret for "hurt caused by this publication". The Government has been making frantic attempts in recent days to persuade the Buddhist monks to relent, but in vain.

The Sri Lankan Federation of Buddhist Organisations, representing 60 groups, rejected the Government's appeal and criticism in the press. Any monk who accepted an invitation to meet him tomorrow would be expelled, it said.

Before leaving Rome for his tour of Asia the Pope declared his "profound respect and sincere esteem" for Buddhism, although he fell short of apologising. Gallage Punyawardena, the Buddhist federation's spokesman, said: "What we want is an apology and the Pope to withdraw what he has written."



Buddhists protest against the Pope's visit to Colombo

Envoy rejects CIA job

Washington: William Crowe, America's Ambassador in London, has refused a White House offer to become the new director of the CIA (Martin Fletcher writes). Sources in Washington said he had more than once been "sounded out in a very serious manner" about filling the vacancy caused by James Woolsey's sudden resignation last month, but was not interested.

"I can categorically state that he's not on the list any more. He's taken himself off," a senior US official said, while Admiral Crowe told *USA Today* yesterday that he was "very pleased where I am".

His refusal presents Mr Clinton with a problem because the other leading contender, John Deutch, the Deputy Defence Secretary, has also declined the job. "The CIA is a sinking ship in a lot of people's eyes," an Administration source said.

Surrogate baby killed

New controversy enveloped the booming business of "surrogate parenting" in America yesterday after a Pennsylvania bachelor was charged with killing the son he paid a woman $30,000 (£19,000) to bear (James Bone writes).

James Austin, 26, a bank official, is accused of beating his five-week-old son James to death with a plastic coat hanger, before the paperwork transferring the infant to him could be completed. Phyllis Huddleston, 29, the mother who was artificially inseminated, is now arranging the baby's funeral.

The case prompted calls for new controls on a largely unregulated industry. There are an estimated 1,500 surrogate births a year in the United States.

Serpent puts faith to test

A man died after he took the words of St Mark's gospel too literally and was bitten by a rattlesnake he had taken to his local church in Enigma, Georgia (Tom Rhodes writes). Dewey Hale, 40, had apparently been impressed by the biblical words which say that believers "shall take up serpents". When he placed his hand in the box to remove the reptile it bit into his hand. He was not taken to hospital and died later the same day. Martha Hale, his cousin, said: "The congregation feels that he did not die because of the snake but because it was his time to go"

Peacemaking President muses on life, love and lost causes



A drawing from the Carter poetry book

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JIMMY CARTER is back in the news, this time not as a peacemaker but as a poet. The former President has just published a book of 44 poems, *Always a Reckoning*, which makes him America's third poet-President after Lincoln and John Quincy Adams.

"It takes a lot of courage to write a book of poems and put it out for public scrutiny," Mr Carter said. And some of the poems are indeed very personal — but that has not prevented him from reading them on television chat shows or from signing thousands of copies at bookshops around the country. Of his wife, Rosalynn, he writes:

She'd smile, and birds would feel
that they no longer
had to sing, or it may be I failed to
hear their song.

He recalls how, as a lovesick young man, he would pursue Rosalynn to the cinema where

I'd pay to sit behind her, blind to
what
was on the screen, and watch the
image flicker upon her hair.

It must be said that Mr Carter still stands a better chance of winning a Nobel Prize for peace than literature, but reviewers have so far been gentle.

He writes about growing up in rural Georgia and recalls the moment his black playmates instinctively refused to enter the gate to his father's farm:

We only saw it vaguely then but we
were transformed at that place.
A silent line was drawn between
friend and friend, race and race.

He humorously recalls his early experiences in Georgia politics, including how he proposed a law that

... citizens could never vote again
after they had passed away.
I lost the next campaign, and failed
to carry
a single precinct with a cemetery.

There is just one poem about the White House that describes how he and Rosalynn stood on the roof one night and marvelled at a "primeval" formation of geese flying overhead.

Another poem tells how he overcame British resistance to honouring his idol, Dylan Thomas, with a plaque in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner

... because, they said,
his morals were
below the standards there.

The book, illustrated by Mr Carter's 17-year-old granddaughter, is his ninth. "I think it's a good book," he said with his usual modesty, "and it expresses a lot about me that I couldn't say otherwise."

200 die in Kashmir highway avalanche

FROM REUTER IN JAMMU

MORE than 200 people were believed dead and 400 others buried under snow after avalanches roared down Himalayan mountainsides along the Srinagar-Jammu highway, the United News of India said yesterday.

Reports coming in from various points along the road indicated that the final toll could be much higher because rescue teams had not yet reached some affected areas. The police said that as many as five buses had plunged off the 110-mile road that winds through the foothills of the Himalayas since heavy snowfalls hit the area three days ago. About 5,000 people had been rescued from vehicles stranded along the road.

The news agency said that 133 bodies had been recovered from the area since the avalanches began, and many more were thought to be buried in the snow.

It said 400 people were still taking refuge in the 1.7-mile-long Jawahar tunnel. Air force helicopters had dropped food and blankets around the mouth of the tunnel for the stranded travellers.

The road, which snakes through precipitous passes, provides the isolated Kashmir valley with its only road link to the rest of India.

'Sundance' TV planned



New York: The actor and director Robert Redford, above, is setting up his own cable television channel named after his famous role in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (James Bone writes). Redford has announced a 50-50 joint venture with a division of the entertainment conglomerate Viacom to screen the work of independent film directors on the Sundance Film Channel. British-made films are expected to feature heavily.

Immunity row sparks Mandela cabinet crisis

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A CRISIS in President Mandela's coalition Government has blown up over the refusal of the Cabinet to grant indemnity from prosecution to 3,500 police officers and at least two former cabinet ministers.

F.W. de Klerk, a Deputy President, denied yesterday that he has threatened to resign from the Cabinet, but it is clear that the refusal to pardon the former enforcers of apartheid is causing an upheaval.

The situation was said to have been aggravated by a bitter attack on the National Party and Mr de Klerk, its leader, by President Mandela at a cabinet meeting. Mr de Klerk told reporters yesterday: "There is a cabinet situation which creates a serious situation. What is happening is not what I have been working for. I am deeply upset." He boycotted late evening talks on Wednesday between Mr Mandela and National Party ministers in the Cabinet.

☐ Durban: Gunmen killed eight people, two of them children, in an attack on a coastal village near Port Shepstone in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province on Wednesday night. *(Reuter)*



Black humour fails to lighten agony of despair in Chechen hospital ward



Anatol Lieven visits the hospital at Urus-Martan, where medical teams battle to save war victims. Many Chechen doctors are among the dead and wounded. Grozny's hospitals have been captured or destroyed

COURAGE vies with despair in the amputees' ward of the hospital in Urus Martan, a town 12 miles south of Grozny.

In one bed was a Chechen fighter named Nuradi, 21, whose leg was amputated above the knee after being hit by a bullet in fighting in Grozny on January 1. He rolled his eyes in his white face and said loudly to his companions: "Yet another journalist! I'd better put on a good show for him, hadn't I?" He began to cry: "I'm dying, I'm dying," breaking off to roar with laughter. In his position, this was fortitude and humour on an epic scale.

Two other inhabitants of the ward were quieter, both members of the same medical team: Dr Ahmed Ahmatov, who lost a leg after being wounded in the Presidential Palace in Grozny this week, and his ambulance driver, Aslambek, who was wounded by a bomb in the town of Achkoi Martan on January 11, and who lost an arm. That two members of the same medical team should have been badly wounded in separate incidents within a week is some indication of the scale of Chechen casualties.

Dr Abubakr Ibragimov, deputy director of the Urus Martan hospital, said: "We can't say how many doctors have been killed so far. But we know that several of our friends have gone to help at the front, and we've heard nothing more from them."

His words were interrupted by screams from another bed. Misha Yefimtsev, eight, a Russian boy from southern Grozny, was having his dressings changed. He lost both his legs when Russian rockets hit his home on Monday. As the doctor worked on him, he cried for help from his mother, who was sitting beside him with an expression on her face which I cannot describe. The doctor and nurse attending him were both doing their best not to cry.

Dr Ibragimov asked me to appeal for help in Britain, to get proper artificial legs for Misha. "It is a terrible thing for a child of his age with his life before him. We have no proper artificial legs here, and even if we did, the demand is going to be enormous."

The doctor said that since all the main hospitals in Grozny had been captured or destroyed, Urus Martan was now the main surgical hospital in Chechenia. He said it held 128 wounded, and the gynaecological, neurological and therapeutic wards had all been turned over to emergency cases.

He added that the hospital had only been able to keep going for two reasons: many doctors and nurses who had lost their hospitals in Urus Martan; and a trickle of international aid from the International Red Cross and Médecins sans Frontières had been able to reach them. The hospital would be able to work only for another week, given the present influx of casualties. "We need everything connected with surgery, everything," he said. "Plasma, blood, anaesthetics, sterilising equipment."

Dr Igragimov bitterly condemned the Russian attack and bombardment but, like many Chechen doctors and the educated classes in general, he also denounced the Dudayev regime. "For three years we have had no new supplies because our Government has cared nothing for the health or well-being of its people. Doctors and nurses have not been paid; those who have remained have done so only from commitment."

He also blamed General Dudayev for frightening away many ethnic Russian doctors. "Here, there are no questions of nationality. There are only patients and those who help them."

The hospital at Urus Martan is a clean, orderly and well-equipped place compared with some of the filthy, dilapidated hospitals in smaller towns, also now packed with wounded. In Dr Ibragimov's words: "In many places, they can't even sterilise equipment and they have no sterile overalls. They are carrying out operations dressed in their ordinary clothes."

The dead on the Chechen side, military and civilian, must stand at 1,000 at least, and could be many more. The military casualties are obviously overwhelmingly Chechen; civilian ones appear to be ethnic Russians from Grozny.

Yeltsin declares military victory as Palace falls

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA's military campaign in Chechenia is over, President Yeltsin announced yesterday after his troops captured the Presidential Palace in the breakaway republic's capital, Grozny. It was also announced in Moscow that three generals who opposed the intervention had been sacked as deputy defence ministers.

Hours after infantrymen from the Urals hoisted the Russian tricolour over the devastated remains of the multi-storey concrete structure in the heart of Grozny, the Russian leader announced that the process of rebuilding and reconciliation could begin.

"The military stage of restoring power of the Russian Federation's constitution in Chechenia has actually finished," said a statement released by President Yeltsin, who said the next stage would be the "restoration of Chechenia's life support system" and the "protection of human rights".

"On this day, which gave us the hope of restoring peace, I bow my head before the memory of soldiers killed in this conflict and to the victims of the suffering civilian population," he said.

President Yeltsin's move was widely expected. Although the victory may be largely symbolic, it is convincing enough for him to halt the first stage of the campaign and begin trying to patch up his battered image at home and abroad.

The Russian leader still faces many serious obstacles in Chechenia from continued resistance to Russian rule, and in Moscow from the political, military and economic fall-out from his unpopular, bungled and costly campaign. Although the first phase of the military objective has been achieved, it was not clear how President Yeltsin planned to restore his authority over the rest of the republic.

General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader, is still at large with thousands of well-armed supporters who have vowed to continue their struggle in the rugged mountains which provide ideal cover for guerrillas.

In Moscow, recriminations over the military action were beginning yesterday, as the Ministry of Defence confirmed that three senior generals, critical of the handling of the campaign, had been sacked as deputy defence ministers. They were named as: Colonel-General Boris Gromov, Colonel-General Georgi Kondratyev and Colonel-General Viktor Minorov.

But the disgruntled generals will not be the only ones to suffer. It is widely expected that General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister in charge of the Chechen operation, will also go.

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence confirmed that it would stop using inexperienced conscripts in Chechenia. The teenage soldiers, many of whom had only fired a rifle once before being sent on suicidal operations in Grozny, were among the heaviest casualties.

Vladimir Shumeiko, the Speaker of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, said those responsible for ordering the conscripts into battle would be punished. His remarks appeared to be directed at General Grachev and Sergei Stepashin, the head of the counter intelligence service, who helped to direct operations.



DAVID BRAUCHLI

An anguished woman walks away from a victim of air attacks on Grozny which continued yesterday despite a proposed ceasefire

Hurd tells Moscow ties are in jeopardy

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS HURD telephoned Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, yesterday to warn him of growing concern in the West over the brutality of the fighting in Grozny, and to urge Russia to allow Western humanitarian aid through.

Britain also promised £1 million in humanitarian aid to Chechenia, and said it was ready to offer more. The money will be channelled through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Foreign Secretary also issued one of his most outspoken public warnings that Russia was jeopardising its relations with the West by its onslaught on the Chechen capital. He said in a lecture to the London Business School that Russia was entitled to expect from its Western partners a serious effort to understand its difficulties.

"But our own public, and Russians too, are equally entitled to expect Western governments consistently to uphold accepted standards of human rights, and internationally agreed principles governing the used of armed force," Mr Hurd insisted, adding: "This includes that any use of force must be commensurate with the security threat posed."

Russian liberal attacks 'weakness' of West

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S most popular political figure yesterday rebuked the West for not taking a tougher and more principled stand against President Yeltsin over the conflict in Chechenia.

Grigori Yavlinsky, the liberal leader of the Yabloko faction and a possible presidential candidate, deplored the weak stand taken by Western governments, including Britain, and insisted that only a resolute approach would benefit Russian democracy and Western interests.

"My message to the West is, 'be honest with Russia'," he said, after a visit to London where he made similar appeals to British officials. "It is extremely important that the West says explicitly to Yeltsin that what he is doing is unacceptable from the point of view of democracy and human rights, and that he cannot count on their support if the war continues."

His remarks reflected a deep sense of betrayal among many Russian liberals who have spoken out against the violence in Chechenia, where thousands of people have been killed and tens of thousands made homeless since Russian troops invaded the breakaway republic on December 11.

Although Western governments have called for a halt to hostilities, their protests have been largely muted. Almost every Western power still supports Mr Yeltsin and in the words of one senior diplomat, the only question remaining is "whether to slap him once on the wrist, or twice".

In defence of their policy, Western officials have bemoaned the absence of a clear pro-reformist alternative to Mr Yeltsin. But Mr Yavlinsky, who is currently top of the opinion polls, is projecting himself as the natural choice for the presidential elections next year, or earlier if the Chechen conflict causes the President's premature removal from power.

Mr Yavlinsky, 42, a charismatic figure, came to prominence in 1991 when he drafted a blueprint for the rapid reform of the Russian economy, called the 500-Day Plan, which Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, turned down as too radical.

Since then he has been one of the most ardent supporters of democratic reform in Russia and helped to establish the radical experiment in free market economics that has transformed the city of Nizhny Novgorod into one of the most successful areas in post-communist Russia.

In the Duma, the Lower House of parliament, where he heads a party with about 25 seats, he has been an active campaigner against the increased authority acquired by Mr Yeltsin and last week proposed a law that would limit the Kremlin's use of force in the future. The Bill was voted down by ultra-nationalists, but Mr Yavlinsky, undeterred, said: "Whatever happens in this country, I intend to go all the way."

❑ **Sofia:** Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgia's leader, said yesterday that Moscow had brought the Chechen crisis upon itself by displaying double standards towards aggressive separatism. In a newspaper interview coinciding with a visit to Sofia he linked the crisis to alleged Russian support of separatists in the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia who drove out government forces in September 1993. Mr Shevardnadze, said the bloodshed in Grozny was due to the fact that Russia had not intervened earlier. *(Reuter)*

Leading article and Letters, page 19

Agnelli adds touch of class to Cabinet

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

WOMAN IN THE NEWS

ITALIANS were grippped yesterday by the versatile career of Susanna Agnelli, sister of Gianni, the Fiat industry magnate, who has capped her privileged and extraordinary life by becoming the country's first woman Foreign Minister and the first member of her illustrious family to enter Government.

Signora Agnelli, 72, is the best known and most popular member of the technocratic Cabinet of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, that was sworn in on Tuesday night. She also is the only woman among the 22 ministers.

She took over at the Farnesina, the Fascist-epoch foreign ministry building on the banks of Tiber, on Wednesday, replacing Antonio Martino, who had been installed there since May as part of Silvio Berlusconi's coalition Government.

Four spells as a junior minister in the Foreign Ministry between 1986 and 1991 mean that she is familiar with the workings of the diplomatic corps. Signora Agnelli is also a mother of six, married to Count Urbano Rattazzi. For a time they lived in Argentina and their son Cristiano works at Fiat's Argentinian subsidiary company.

Nicknamed "Suni" by her family, she was elected to Parliament in 1976 for the Republican Party, the small "lay" grouping that is close to big business while theoretically distinct from the Christian Democrats and their successors, the Italian People's Party (PPI). In 1981 she was elected a member of the European Parliament and in 1983 a senator. She remained a member of the Republican Party's national council until 1992.

Her long experience in politics is unique in her family except for a brief flirtation between her other brother, Umberto, and the Christian Democrats. Gianni Agnelli has always shunned politics, although his position as owner of Italy's largest private company has earned him the reputation of being the uncrowned King of Italy and his pronouncements on the country and its politics are treated with respect.

Signora Agnelli is well known for her writings, including a book about her childhood in which she describes the fear she and her brothers felt for their grandfather, Giovanni.



Susanna Agnelli, Italy's first woman Foreign Minister

Denis MacShane, page 18

Delors takes leave on downbeat note

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN STRASBOURG

EUROPE should haul itself out of its current pessimism and paralysis and go forward to monetary union and joint defence policies, Jacques Delors told the European Parliament yesterday in a surprisingly downbeat farewell to an assembly which contains some of his most ardent fans.

M Delors, who stands down as President of the European Commission on Monday, received a standing ovation and was presented with a lavishly produced book of his own speeches. In his speech yesterdayl, he pleaded with national governments not to turn the European Union into a "Gulliver in chains", lacking workable institutions for making joint decisions.

The best institutions, he said, would be federal ones. Only the "federal approach" could clearly define what sovereignty should be transferred to the centre and what should remain with national states.

Only federalism "allows democratic control and can punish abuses of power. Only federalism can guarantee respect for national character and regional variety".

But M Delors admitted that the EU was "distant from its citizens" and could progress only if governments took voters along with them. He reaffirmed his conviction that Europe could only be truly united when it had a single currency and common military forces, concluding: "The springtime of Europe is still before us."

In spite of this robust restatement of his familiar themes, however, it was hard to escape a sense that M Delors believes that a united Europe is further away than ever. His recent interviews and speeches have been sprinkled with pessimistic asides aimed at politicians he thinks lack the courage to fight for the federalist dream.

Speeches by MEPs yesterday emphasised that M Delors's place in European history is already assured.

Leading article, page 19

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Threat to kill missing US officer and son

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ABOUT 100 Turkish and American troops are searching for a US Air Force officer and his ten-year-old son who were reported missing after a trip to Kartalkaya resort in Bolu province, 70 miles west of Ankara.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to be in Turkey called Israel Radio and threatened to kill Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Couillard, 37, unless Israel freed Mustafa Dirani, a captured Lebanese cleric.

Israel kidnapped Mr Dirani from his home in southern Lebanon last May as a bargaining chip for Ron Arad, an Israeli air navigator missing since 1986 and believed once held by Mr Dirani.

The colonel works in the American Embassy in Ankara in the Office of Defence Co-operation, Commander Chuck Franklin, a Pentagon official, said in Washington.

The call to Israel Radio came as other callers telephoning a Turkish news agency and a television station claimed that they held the American and his son and that they would be killed in 48 hours unless the cleric was freed. The Israeli Radio caller gave no deadline. Hadas Matas, a telephone operator for Israel Radio, said that the caller to her station spoke in English, in an accent that did not sound either Israeli or Arabic. American and Israeli officials have cast doubt on the authenticity of the kidnapping claim. Israeli security sources said that the action did not fit the pattern of Islamic extremists, who usually avoid abducting women or children.

The sources also noted that the kidnappers had not released any photographs or other identification: militants usually do so to prove a kidnapping.

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'I can walk myself' survivor tells rescuers after two days in wreckage without food and water

Eighty-year-old women pulled alive from rubble

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

RESCUE OPERATION

AT LEAST 3,600 people were confirmed dead by last night in the Kobe earthquake and hopes are fading for more than 660 still missing, many trapped under the rubble.

Nearly 22,000 people were injured, and about 270,000 survivors have been accommodated in makeshift refuges in 620 schools and halls.

Rescue workers picking through the devastation found seven people who had miraculously survived through the winter weather and two days buried under collapsed buildings without food or water. Two 80-year-old women were found alive in Nishinomiya, east of Kobe. One, Yoshimi Nomura, was badly hurt. The other, Setsuko Orii, was only scratched — even her spectacles were intact. She told rescuers who tried to carry her away: "I can walk myself."

Also in Nishinomiya, Shinsuke Yamada, nine, was trapped for 57 hours, still conscious, in the ruins of the block of flats where he lived. Kyodo news agency reported. A bulldozer team uncovered him and took him to hospital. Yesterday morning two men, aged 74 and 94, were pulled from collapsed houses in the city of Ashiya, also to the east of Kobe. They had survived beneath the wreckage for more than 50 hours.

A national campaign calling for volunteer workers and donations of cash and goods was gaining momentum yesterday, but the two-day delay in starting relief efforts has already taken its toll: dazed and dishevelled survivors who have been living in intense cold and extremely cramped conditions at the evacuation centres spoke of severe shortages of food and water and appalling sanitary arrangements. Public health workers last night issued a warning of potential outbreaks of disease if conditions do not improve.

Stricken survivors could still be seen late yesterday, frantically digging through rubble with their bare hands searching for friends and relatives.

Rescue workers, spurred on by yesterday's discoveries of trapped survivors, stepped up their search efforts. They had been greatly hampered in the first 36 hours after the quake by shortages of digging equipment, emergency vehicles, and other resources.

Firefighters, meanwhile, battled more than 90 new fires that broke out yesterday after teetering buildings finally collapsed, causing gas tanks to explode. Their efforts were also hindered by severe shortages of water, personnel and vehicles. The shortcomings of the firefighting and rescue operations have both come under heavy criticism from survivors and commentators.

On the first day alone more than 105 fires burned throughout the night and quickly spread because of the shortage of water and personnel. Large sections of the city were destroyed.

Critics say that hundreds of lives and many buildings could have been saved if the relevant government agencies had prepared more comprehensive disaster-relief strategies. Japan's military forces have also been criticised for their slow response.

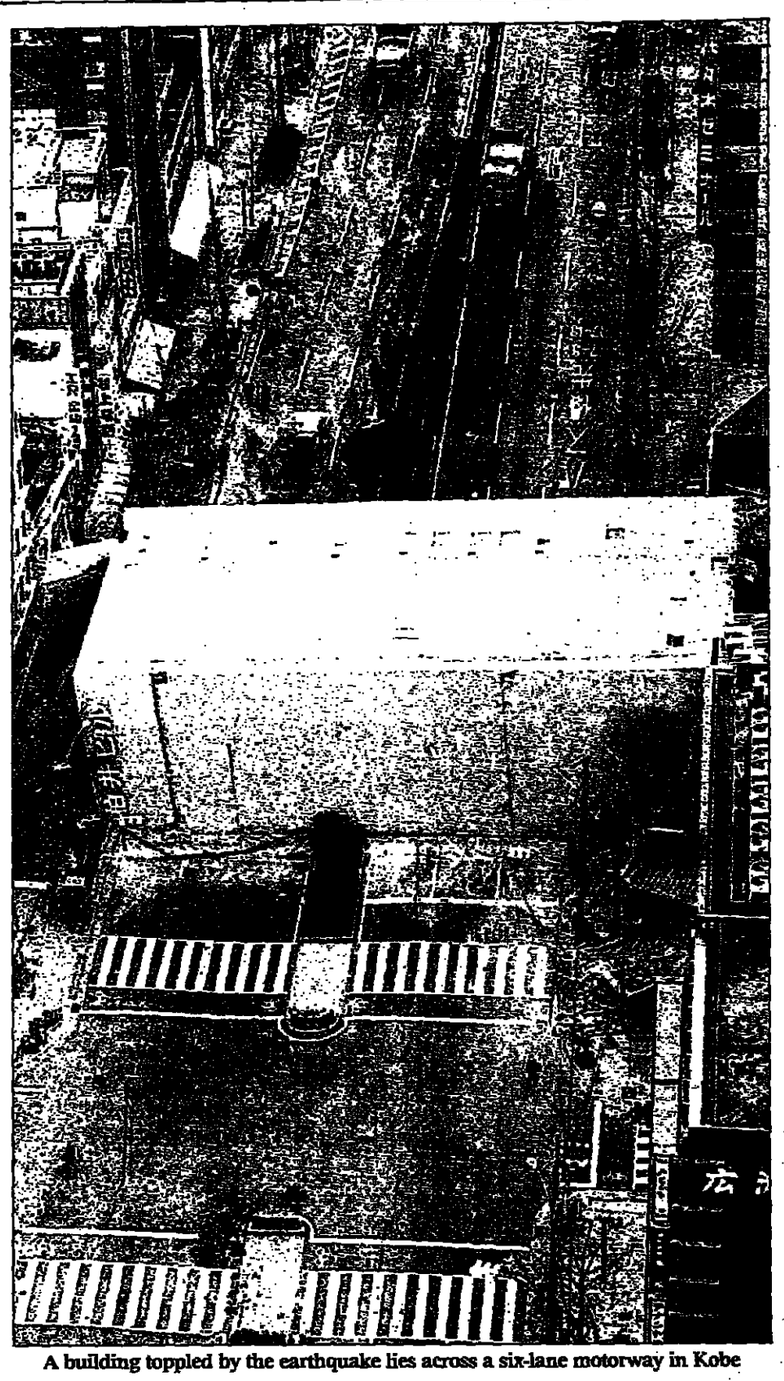
The Defence Agency announced yesterday that it was sending nearly 15,000 troops to the affected region to assist rescue operations and dispense food, water and medical treatment. For two days after the quake, however, military and police workers were in short supply.

Nobuo Ishihara, the deputy chief Cabinet secretary, conceded that the Government "should do some soul-searching" about the delay in starting military rescue efforts. At the same time the Government reversed its earlier opposition to accepting foreign assistance. A team of sniffer dogs arrived from Switzerland with 25 Swiss search personnel to join the relief operation.

The Government had earlier rejected offers of help from foreign governments, including Britain, which said it would help the quake victims in any way needed. That offer has yet to be taken up.

Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's Prime Minister, toured stricken areas yesterday and announced that the Government would provide "condolence money" totalling ten billion yen (about £65 million) to the bereaved families of those who died in the quake. The fund will provide some £32,000 to each family which had lost its main bread-winner; others will receive up to £16,000.

Mr Murayama has also undertaken that the Government will shoulder most of the cost of reconstruction of the devastated areas. But it is not clear if individuals who lost their homes will be eligible for assistance. Insurance industry officials said on Wednesday that Kobe and its environs had the lowest proportion of earthquake insurance policy holders of any area in Japan.



A building toppled by the earthquake lies across a six-lane motorway in Kobe

Residents face life without the basics

FROM PAGE 1

the government has done to help the stricken city. Some 90 per cent of Kobe is without running water. Suddenly, the city's people, used to running water at the touch of a tap, do not know where to find it. So far, Kobe's authorities have organised a fleet of 250 vehicles to deliver water, but that may not be enough.

In Nagata, one of the worst hit areas of Kobe, the fires still smoulder while survivors search the blackened ruins for anything which somehow might have survived the blaze. The massive stone pillars of Nagata Shrine lie across the road. In the shrine courtyard, a group of old people huddle around a fire to keep warm. One of them, Mr Matsuoka, a man in his 70s, gestures towards the flaming timbers. "That's what my house looks like now. I've lived here 40 years, and now all I have are the clothes I'm wearing and some blankets from the shrine." Like many Japanese, he has no insurance, but at least he has somewhere to sleep along with 200 homeless people who have been given refuge in the shrine.

Not far away, the tiny spire of a wooden church rises over the roofs of the few houses still standing in the area. Inside, a collection of people, a young girl and a boy with Down's Syndrome eat a simple meal. A woman greets me warmly as a fellow Christian, and tells me how the earthquake is really a blessing.

"We Japanese have forgotten God. We have become too materialistic." She is on the verge of tears, but somehow she continues. "God has not forgotten us. Now having seen his power, we will remember Him. It is a blessing and we must be grateful."

Thousands trek out of city

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NISHINOMIYA

REFUGEES

ON ONE of the few trains still running, well-dressed workers on their way to Osaka offices sat alongside grimy, bleary-eyed quake victims. Thousands of refugees had trekked out of Kobe, ravaged by earthquake and fire. The nearest railway station that still had service to neighbouring Osaka was a 3½-hour walk away. Noriko Sato, a housewife, hiked out of one of the worst affected areas with her husband and two children. "It's a miracle none of us was injured," she said, "but we have to leave. There's no water or gas or food."

The main Osaka-Kobe road was closed yesterday, except for supply and emergency vehicles, which were making progress for the first time. Up until then, even ambulances with sirens wailing had sat trapped for hours in mammoth jams. In Kobe's burnt-out centre, small knots of mourners gathered at homes that had collapsed; the rubble was dotted with bouquets.

Authorities were so busy with the immediate task of saving lives that other concerns were ignored. At the site of a Kobe chemical factory that had collapsed the air was heavy with an acrid smell. The street was blocked off with barrels marked "Danger".

Fires flared again yesterday in central Kobe, and an old woman wept by her partially collapsed house as flames approached. "It's inherited from my ancestors," she said, "I cannot let it burn."



Relatives post notices in central Kobe asking for information about missing people

Mob of ministering angels hands out bread and noodles

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

GANGS

ONE of Japan's most notorious yakuza organized crime gangs has emerged from the smouldering ruins of the earthquake-devastated city of Kobe to prove that every cloud has a silver lining.

The lavish, modern headquarters of the Yamaguchi-Gumi, Japan's largest yakuza gang, sits behind an elegant stone wall and a row of decorative pine trees in Nada, the suburb of Kobe hardest hit by Tuesday's quake.

The spacious home of Yoshinori Watanabe, the gang's boss, is right next door. Both buildings survived the quake unscathed. In normal times the shuttered windows and video surveillance cameras mounted on the premises lend the buildings a sinister air. But in the chaotic days since the quake, this citadel of crime has been transformed.

Gang members have been giving away food, water and other relief goods to survivors of the quake. News of their action has spread quickly and more than 200 people lined up in front of the gang's headquarters yesterday. The gangsters handed out bread, instant noodles, powdered milk and even nappies, residents told a Japanese news service.

"The gang is taking the place of the authorities," a middle-aged woman in the queue said, praising the gangsters' "justice and humanity". She added: "It is up to the individual whether to accept the goods, but I certainly will."

The Yamaguchi gang was formed in Kobe in 1915 and today has 23,100 members in branches throughout Japan, according to police figures. The police estimate the syndicate's annual income at well over 270 billion yen (£1.7 billion), most of it gained through an empire of legal and illegal operations, including gambling, prostitution, and loan-sharking.

Mr Watanabe is practically a god in Japan's active underworld, a shady community which comprises some 3,300 organised crime groups, according to the police.

Earthquake experts caught in disaster

BY ANJANA AHUJA

OSAKA

AMONG those caught in the earthquake this week were about 240 seismologists and other academics who had gathered for a three-day conference in Osaka to discuss the effects of such disasters on urban areas.

The meeting has been suspended, but many of the Japanese and American experts have stayed to study the aftermath of the quake.

"It was a very big earthquake in a densely populated area, and people have been into the field to look at the damage. It is very unfortunate," said Susan Tubbesing, director of the Earthquake Research Institute in California, a professional association which has 2,500 social scientists in the field as members.

Ms Tubbesing, who also studies how people respond to such disasters, said it was too early to draw conclusions about the victims' behaviour.

☐ **Escape plan:** Some of the nine students and a lecturer from Stirling University caught in the earthquake are planning to walk from Kobe to Osaka today if official rescue attempts fail. They said they were in danger and losing patience with failed official attempts to evacuate them. "Our living conditions are getting worse all the time, and we're just desperate to get out," one said.

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Governor refuses to give files to Peking

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S demand to be given the files on Hong Kong's civil servants has been rejected by Chris Patten, the Governor, as illegal and immoral.

Three days ago Lu Ping, Peking's senior official with responsibility for Hong Kong, threatened that the colony's refusal to hand over the files, almost 900 days before the transfer of sovereignty on July 1, 1997, would result in Chinese action "in which we will not be polite". He was particularly keen to see the records of senior civil servants.

Then came an official warning that failure to hand over the files would imperil the visit to Britain this spring of Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister. The trip had been seen as a sign of a thaw in Anglo-Chinese relations.

The Chinese say they want evidence of the nationality of Hong Kong's civil servants, as well as of their integrity. But the civil servants fear that Peking wishes to vet their loyalty.

Mr Patten yesterday pounded the table in the Legislative Council and said: "I don't want there to be a single scintilla of doubt" that the Government will not show Peking evidence of applications by civil servants for British passports. "That is their own business."

Singapore's 'lapdog' press bites back

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

BOOTLICKERS, prostitutes, lapdogs and sycophants: Singapore's newspapers have escaped no epithet. They are, certainly, respectful of authority and there is no need for the Government to control them with crude censorship.

The Straits Times glows with admiration for most things governmental and can be counted on to support official campaigns on anything from saving money to keeping the streets clean. There are, however, stirrings of more robust journalism, to the extent of gentle chiding of the Government. The *Sunday Times*, its sister paper, published an article by Catherine Lim, a local author, criticising huge pay increases to ministers and top civil servants.

"Journalists here do not subscribe to the view that we are the fourth estate," said Han Foo Kwang, deputy political editor of *The Straits Times*, who asked a rather startling question of himself in an article last week: "How do I live with myself writing this column?"

This was in response to a piece in *The Asian Wall Street Journal* that mocked *The Straits Times* for pandering to the Government. "Most [foreign] newspapers are beholden to the view of their publishers, to the pampering to populist tastes, [and] that has made many newspapers sink to ever lower levels of gutter journalism," Mr Han wrote.

He noted that a survey in London's *Times* in 1993 showed that only one in ten people in Britain believed what journalists wrote. "It is from this perspective that Singapore journalists view attacks from their British or American counterparts. We take them with a large pinch of salt."

Mr Han said *The Straits Times* was pro-Singapore. It would support any government that was honest, effective and efficient in enhancing Singapore's well-being. He said that *The Straits Times* had run stories about the political opposition, "but there are four opposition members in the 81-member chamber. The scale of our reporting is proportionate to the range of activity they generate." He noted that journalists in Singapore operated in an environment in which people generally showed respect for authority.

Cheong Yip Seng, the Editor-in-Chief, defended his newspaper in a letter to *The Asian Wall Street Journal* last week. "We make no bones about what we believe to be Singapore's critical success factors, like thrift, hard work, honesty in government," he said. The paper tried to report the news as accurately as possible and provide a forum for its readers to speak their minds, "so long as what they say is not defamatory or inflammatory".

David Marshall, an outspoken critic of the Government, has attacked the local press for its timidity, but he says he understands the problems journalists face.

"There is control of the mass media without any crass censorship. The owners of the major newsapers were put into one company, Singapore Press Holdings, which has two types of shares: ordinary and management. No-one who is not approved by the Government can buy management shares. And the directors can only be elected by the management shareholders."

The Government controls what appears on television and has banned satellite dishes. It has also punished several foreign publications in reprisal for articles that caused offence.

China's population reaches 1.2 billion

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

FIVE years earlier than planned, China's population will exceed 1.2 billion by the middle of next month, the official *China Daily* reported yesterday.

Last year, the population grew by 58,000 a day, or 40 a minute. However, a health official said that 300 million births were averted during the past two decades as a result of the family planning programme launched in 1973, which involves the use of abortion, forced sterilisation and strong encouragement to use contraceptives. Had the growth rate of 1973 continued, the population would have reached 1.2 billion in 1986 and 1.5 billion by the end of last year, Yang Kuifu, Vice-Minister of the state family planning commission, said. Now the target is to keep the population below 1.3 billion at the end of the century, he added. At present, the population is increasing at an annual rate of 12 million, with about 21 million births each year.

At the same time as it issued yesterday's reports, the Chinese Government gave further assurances that the health of Deng Xiaoping, the country's senior leader, gave no cause for immediate concern. There was apparent confusion, however, because Deng Rong, Mr Deng's daughter, had been quoted last week as saying there had been a significant decline in her father's health in recent months.

Ms Deng told *The New York Times* last Friday that her father could neither stand nor walk and that his health was declining day by day. But Shen Guofang, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a weekly news briefing yesterday: "In general, for a man in his nineties, Mr Deng is in good health."

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A lesson from the mates Down Under

How would we behave if faced by a disaster such as Kobe?

I watched yesterday's television images of the appalling Japanese earthquake damage in the company of a Californian and an Australian. It was rather humbling as I could only guess at something they both knew from experience: they knew what it means to live in a place where the whim of mighty nature can suddenly obliterate the cosiest of human nesting places, be those humans never so rich or knowing. They hadn't had time to forget, either. It's exactly a year since the Los Angeles earthquake and the fires that nearly ate Sydney.



MARGOT NORMAN

The Californian looked uncomfortable as we watched the citizens of Kobe sharing their rice cakes and forming orderly endless queues for water: 90 per cent of Japanese regard themselves as middle-class and here they all were, bankers and bakers, conducting themselves like responsible bourgeois. He was remembering the looting and mayhem after the LA quake.

The Australian by contrast waxed sentimental about community spirit and the phenomenon of Aussie mateship. It emerged again through the smoke last January with jolly blackened faces as 23,000 trained, volunteer fire-fighters dropped everything and ran to save Sydney. This they did magnificently, virtually without loss of life. Some things went wrong, of course: groups were dropped by helicopter on blazing hillsides and left to battle on for days until someone remembered to bring food and tents, but they didn't whinge as a Pom might. And they certainly didn't loot.

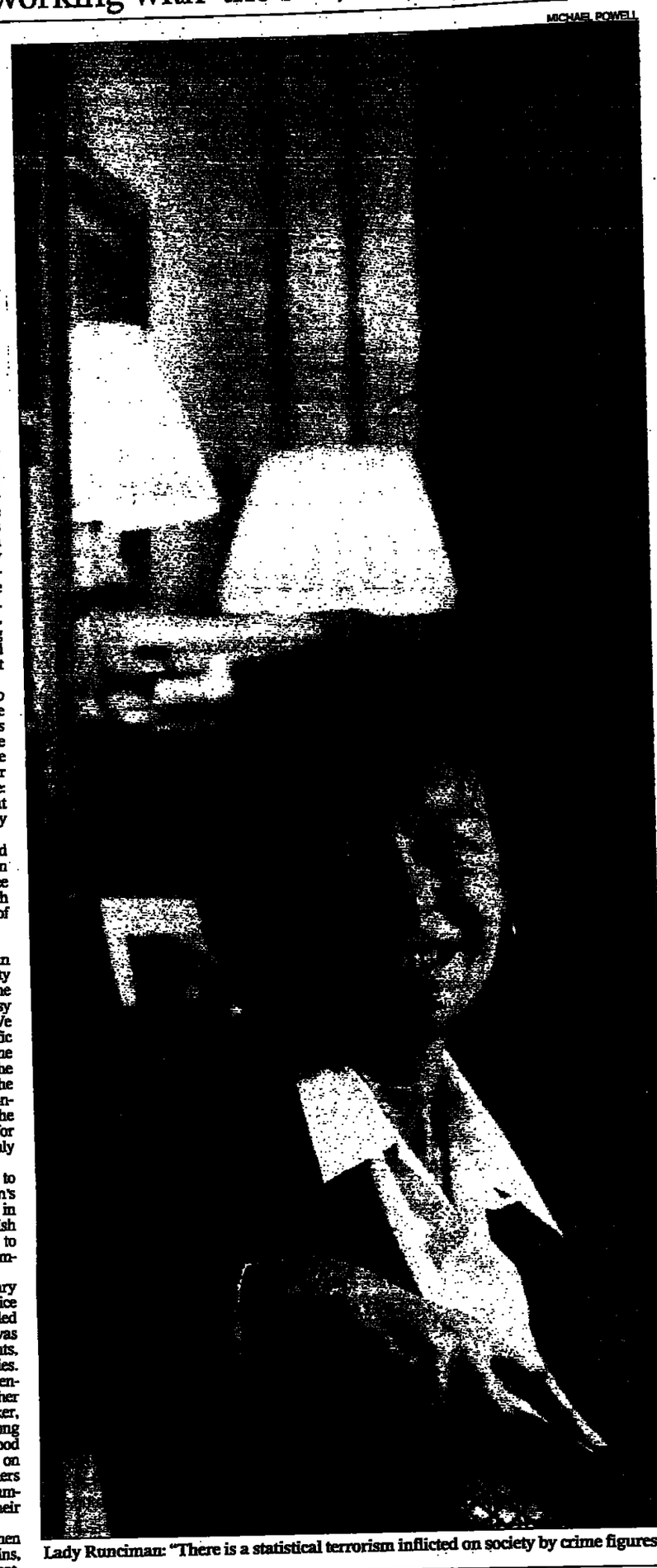
The Australian's pride was justified. Travelling through New South Wales and Queensland earlier this month, I noticed dozens of makeshift indicators. Every little town welcomed you with a large sign displaying the logos of a dozen voluntary organisations. Even one-store villages had recycling bins for rubbish and toy depots for the children of drought-stricken farmers, patches of carefully guarded rainforest and, of course, meeting places for the part-time fire-fighters to train after work against the hour when bush fires would try to undo the fruits of all this voluntary work. Every inhabitant, you felt, must be a Lion or a Rotarian, a member of the Country Woman's Association or a Salvation Army helper.

Some of the makeshift signs make you smile and sometimes wince. Only in a vast empty country would the universal valediction among passing strangers be "See you later, mate". And surely this business of cosily abbreviating everything has gone too far. I was completely stumped when the Aussie Earl of Stradbroke threatened to sue his "prof ads". Light only dawned when he gave the names of his accountants and solicitors.

Never mind the linguistic foibles. In Australia, unlike America, the frontier spirit survives to face down fire, drought and numerous other reminders of nature's malevolence. In some places the drought that began to break last month had gone on for an unimaginable six years. And, tragically, the bank foreclosed on hundreds of farmers only weeks before the first rain fell. Unlike us, Australians are a tough matey lot. I dread to think how we'd be if Britain had earthquakes. Worse than the Californians, I fear.

Ruth Runciman has spent 20 years working with 'the sad, mad and bad'

'I may be helping our own burglars even now'



MICHAEL POWELL

Lady Runciman: "There is a statistical terrorism inflicted on society by crime figures"

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



It speaks volumes about Lady Runciman that although she is entitled to travel first class, she never does. "I worked it out," she says. "If I go second class, we save enough to pay for eight extra days of visits to mental hospitals."

This week she chaired her first meeting of the Mental Health Act Commission, having taken over from Louis Blom-Cooper at a time when avoidable tragedies (such as the death of Georgina Robinson, stabbed by a schizophrenic) strike new fear into the public heart over the catastrophic failures of the Mental Health Act.

Lady Runciman heads a team of 90 dedicated commissioners: psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers and lay people. Even before the Blom-Cooper report on Monday, the Commission had decided to increase its visits to hospitals and to individual patients, and to see that "leave" practices are tightened. (Georgina Robinson's killer was on a shopping trip leave when he bought his knife.)

What Ruth Runciman is most anxious about is that the fear of crime, which already blights society, now extends to the fear of mental illness.

"I'm afraid there is a statistical terrorism inflicted on our society by crime figures — and I speak as someone who was recently burgled for the tenth time." The burglars got in through the front door while the Runcimans slept, and took all their Christmas presents. "But it's essential not to be anything other than measured in one's response," she says. "I dare say I may be helping the burglars in Wormwood Scrubs even now." (One of her jobs is running an outreach Citizens Advice Bureau at the Scrubs.)

The Commission meets in Nottingham every Wednesday, so we met on the 8am train. She is a tall, handsome South African with a sharp wit, who has spent 20 years sitting on committees to do with the care of "the sad, the mad and the bad". (When Lord Shaftesbury was given her job in Victorian times, he was known as "the lunacy commissioner". Ruth Runciman rather wishes she could be called that today.)

She was brought up in the vibrant political and intellectual Jewish community of Johannesburg. Her mother, Ellen Hellmann — whose own father had arrived from Bavaria as a messenger boy, and prospered to become the first Jew admitted to the teak-lined Rand Club — was an anthropologist, the first woman to gain a doctorate at the University of the Witwatersrand, the first to work in an African township, a founder of the Progressive Party, an influential race relations wallah who — if her warnings had only been heeded — could have saved South Africa from 40 years of apartheid. She died in 1982, too soon to see the fulfilment of her work, which is why her daughter has found herself unable to face going back.

Ruth went to Johannesburg's Roedean, curtseying to teachers and calling them madam and receiving an excellent education under the English headmistress, Miss Le Maitre, that left her "with two history degrees, highly educated and wholly unemployable". She should have become a doctor or a lawyer. "I've never been ambitious, and I've had an interesting life, but I've always regretted not having had a modest career."

She came to Britain and to Girton, in whose corridors she felt especially alien, friendless and unwelcome when she saw, pinned to the door of the great Shakespearean scholar M.C. Bradbrook, a notice: "Miss Bradbrook will be at home to Christians on Sunday night."

In Cambridge she married the distinguished historian Denis Mack Smith, but three years later she fell in love with Garry Runciman, fellow of Trinity.

She married Runciman at San Francisco's City Hall, where everyone seemed to be too busy to conduct a wedding. "We eventually found a traffic judge, who conducted some sort of negotiation on the telephone in the middle of the ceremony, and who admonished my father-in-law [the 2nd Viscount Runciman] for signing the register with only his surname."

She then settled down to domestic life in St John's Wood. "I had three children in four years and was priggish about help. I didn't want to work except in the most humble and voluntary way."

But the humble voluntary work with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Hackney revealed that what she did best was helping people to their rights, benefits and responsibilities. Today, the borough of Kensington and Chelsea pays her as a CAB advice worker, which includes work among prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs, where she was on Tuesday, helping prisoners with problems over their families' rent, access to their children . . .

Twenty years ago the then Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, spotted her potential great-and-goodness and appointed her to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. She discovered that her skill is to get people of divergent expertise to work together. "It's what I can do. I can't speak in public, I can't write, but the one thing I have a feeling for is working with people in a common cause."

With a group of friends including Mark Bonham Carter she founded the Prison Reform Trust. She deplores the rise in the imprisonment of women — up by 40 per cent in two years, the vast majority of whom would be better doing community service. Her five years on the board of English National Opera represent the only time she was on a committee that was "straight fun".

'I've always regretted not having had a modest career'

Ruth Runciman is a good example of the "who can we think of?" ad-hocery of English establishment life, currently under scrutiny by Lord Nolan. There are far more women like her, she points out, but the same three or four get appointed to boards and panels. "The rolling stone gathers all the moss. Yet this country is stuffed full of talented and competent women who are not promoted. I feel very strongly about that."

Her husband, the 3rd Viscount Runciman — of the Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice — chairs a large multinational company, is deputy chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, treasurer of the Child Poverty Action group and a fellow of Trinity. "And he writes books, in longhand. He works all the time, but never complains, never says he's too busy. It's partly his impressive intellect, so he can understand things quicker. He is the most rational man that's ever lived." Friends who have shared Tuscan holidays report that while others are pushing each other in the pool, Garry Runciman is imperturbably reading a theoretical history of the social order.

His wife's new job is to be the "eyes and ears of the Health Secretary". For her, the faultline in the community care system is the failure to provide proper structures to replace the old institutions. "If you're going to compel people to aftercare, then I feel passionately there is a moral obligation also to provide all the things they need: hostels and group houses, for people who want to learn to live independently; occupation, income, company, purposeful activity. At the moment the aftercare discharge plans are often cursory, the services aren't there to make them seriously effective and organisationally tight. It's a huge job. And we have to resource it."

She points out that the greatest risk attached to severe mental illness is to the patients themselves. "Georgina Robinson's was a terrible death, not to be underplayed for a moment, but there were about a dozen suicides in the last three years at that centre.

"As for crisis facilities, these tend to be open from nine to five, Monday to Friday, and mental illness strikes at any time: above all on Christmas Day, when people feel more marginalised than ever."

I asked about her own Christmas, after the burglary. "Oh, we had a jolly Christmas after all. Because we are such privileged people we rushed out and bought more presents, but all I could think of was, supposing this had happened to a poor family? One spends one's life thinking about these disparities, and one's good fortune."



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Norman Hammond on the newly discovered prehistoric cave paintings



A Grotte Chauvet painting, discovered last month: they occur not in well-lit living areas but mostly in dark, inaccessible places which suggests they are not giant wall-menus

Dark secrets of the Ice Age artist

The discovery of an elaborately decorated cave in France, with prehistoric wall paintings of bison, rhinoceros and other animals still as fresh as when they were executed 20,000 years ago, reminds us that our Ice Age ancestors may have lived a simple life, but were anything but simple-minded. Their portrayals of the beasts that they hunted show astute observation of animal behaviour, as well as a range of artistic expression unparalleled for centuries thereafter.

The first cave art finds, in northern Spain and south-western France in the 1870s, were dismissed by many scholars as fakes. Marcelino de Sautuola, who found Altamira, with its great ceiling paintings of plunging and stampeding bison, was dismissed as a fraud when he reported his find in 1880, and it took until early this century for the last diehards to be convinced. Of French professional archaeologists, only Gabriel de Mortillet was brave enough to proclaim from the beginning: "*C'est l'enfance de l'art, ce n'est pas l'art de l'enfant.*"

Much of the vital investigation took place in caves around the village of Les Eyzies in the Dordogne, where the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter yielded prehistoric human remains that gave their name to our own modern sub-species. Excavations at La Mouthe, Font de Gaume and La Ferrassie showed indubitably that palaeolithic occupation layers covered and concealed paintings, which must perforce be older still.

Today the history of European cave art goes back some 30 centuries, and can be traced from simple black and red line drawings at La Ferrassie to the polychrome marvels of Lascaux and Altamira. More than 90 per cent of the art, scholars estimate, was created in the Magdalenian period between about 19,000 and 10,000 years ago to which both sites, and the newly discovered Grotte Chauvet, belong.

The threat to paintings unseen and untouched for millennia has led the most spectacular recent discoveries to be ruled off-limits from the start: the Grotte Cosquer near Marseilles can be entered only through a drowned entrance passage, and there are no plans to make it more accessible; its wealth of art, even now the subject of scholarly controversy — the current issue of the journal *Antiquity* has a vigorous debate over the markings and precise identification of great auks and other birds portrayed on its walls — is known only from photographs and drawings.

Jean Clottes, doyen of French cave-art scholars, estimated yesterday that the new Grotte Chauvet could take 30 years to document and publish, and in spite of pressure from tourism interests in the Ardèche region, it too will stay closed.

Their studies may make it possible to open a window into the mind of Ice Age man in Europe, and understand the motives that led to the creation of the marvels of Lascaux and the Grotte Chauvet. Nearly a century ago the first tentative interpretations of the French and Spanish caves took inspiration from ethnography, and suggested that the art was a form of sympathetic magic.

By controlling the image of the animal, the idea went, one could control the animal itself, and thereby obtain success in the hunt. Certainly, the bulk of the paintings are of animals, and of precisely the species most frequently and successfully hunted by palaeolithic man, if the bones recovered from ancient middens are anything to go by. Bison, aurochs (the huge native European cattle, now extinct), red deer, reindeer, horse and mammoth predominate on what some scholars still see as just a form of giant wall-menu.

But there are problems:



Ice Age man: far from simple-minded

most of the art occurs not in well-lit living areas, but deep into dark caves, sometimes in places approachable only in discomfort and danger. Oil-lamps and pine torches would have been the only forms of illumination.

Clearly, ritual played as great a role as subsistence: one theory is that, because most of the animals shown are large, herd-grazing herbivores which would have required co-operation among otherwise competing human groups for a successful hunt, the paintings were created as part of a rite of social solidarity.

In support of this is the scarcity of reindeer in the art, compared with their abundance in the bone layers which show where the meat actually came from: as the modern Sami (Lapps) demonstrate, a single hunter can approach and kill a reindeer at close quarters without frightening the rest of the herd; thus inter-family co-operation would not be needed for reindeer hunting.

Any credible hypothesis needs to account not only for the emphasis on edible animals in the majority of caves, but the virtual absence of humans, plants, and carnivores such as bears and felines. Humans did not eat the latter, but they would certainly have respected them. The report of leopard, panther and rhinoceros from the Grotte Chauvet suggests a new slant on this old problem.

Some of the paintings may reflect a palaeolithic world view or mythic history, a "dream time" before the harsh reality of their present: the abundance of animals may indeed have been wished-for rather than observed. It may have been a way of making dinner more approachable in the mind and thus, with luck, in the hunt as well. Whatever the answers, if answers ever emerge from what Kipling called "the dim red dawn of man", the art of the Ice Age is an impressive reminder that our forebears were as creative, and as cogitative, as ourselves.

Unadventurous adventurers miss the point

Surely an affair should be with someone different?

Ken Dunn was only 56 when he died; a mournful thing, not to be mocked. However, since his wife and mistress have gone public with their lawsuit over who shall be buried next to him, they must accept that the rest of us are irresistibly and tastelessly fascinated. For Mr Dunn is revealed as the epitome of a familiar type: not a serial monogamist but a photocopy polygamist. He led not a double life but a twin one.

For 20 years he lived partly with his wife — greying curly hair, with big square spectacles — and partly with his mistress, Ms Cooper: greying curly hair, two years older, more big square specs. The women acknowledged one another with guarded tolerance: they had a lot in common. On weekdays Mr Dunn lived at Ms Cooper's; at weekends with his wife. The houses are similar; Mrs Dunn says that he built identical kitchen extensions at each and used the same wallpaper in the living room. Both houses had their windows replaced at the same time; in each, he put his car keys and watch in the same place on the mantelpiece. Both homes had dogs called Kim: it is not known whether they were aware of each other's existence, and if so, whether they were offended.



LIBBY PURVES

Such unadventurous adventurers are all around us. Certain men have an uncanny knack for pairing off with the same woman over and over again in different editions. It may be genetically explicable in young bachelors who know their "type": an old flatmate of mine dated a bewildering succession of air hostesses with dazzling smiles and blonde bobs, so that the only way we could sort them out was by airlines. Communal dinner parties were prefaced by panicky whispers of "I know it's Dan Air, but is it Sharon or Sian?"

More baffling is the older man who disentangles himself from an unhappy marriage and immediately takes up with a clone of his wife: another commanding redhead, another giggly clinger, another intense neurotic. The idea of a man abandoning a frump for a glamourpuss is popular, but not as often accurate as you would think. Film stars may take the trophy-wife route, probably because they need not see all that much of them. Ordinary men are more likely to sign up with someone so like the previous model that they get the names muddled and have to resort to "darling", much as Mr Dunn called both dogs Kim and grand Edwardian ladies used to insist that their maids be called Betty.

It is the duplicate domesticity, though, which is weirdest. I once temped in an office with a man whose long-standing mistress rang up just as often as his wife to nag him about bringing home the dry-cleaning. They both had budgies, and he used to pick up two lots of food from the corner pet shop.

When I left, he was courting again, and a colleague swore she overheard him on the phone to the new woman, obediently asking if there was anything he could collect for her. I bet he bought her a budgie.

Maybe we should accept it as a sincere form of flattery. Women are forever discontentedly planning fresh starts and new lives. Far more insulting, when you come to think of it, than just wanting more of the same.

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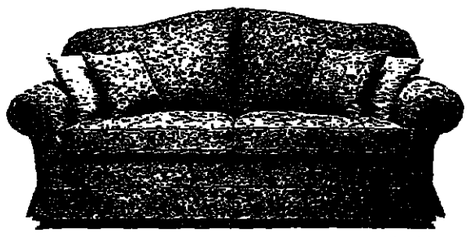
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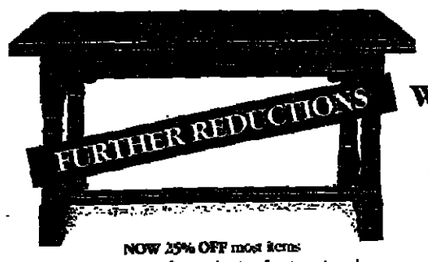
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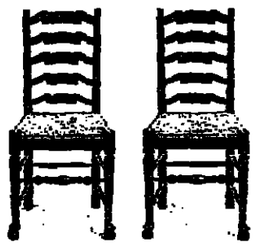


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صفحة من الأصل

Philip Howard



■ A new dictionary will help us to avoid confusing our foreign friends

Herman the German speaks as guttur*ally as your neighbour in the window seat on the Glasgow Super-*Shuttle using the sick-bag: "Ich bin ein student of your unsympathetic English, and I overhear these false friends of yours. Their ratio and politics irritate me. Why does your English receipt for marmalade have oranges and lemons, but never strawberries or apricots? On the other hand, why do you call Christmas pudding and bread-and-butter pudding and your other disgusting sweet messes puddings? Any German knows that *the Pudding means one thing only, the* sloppy milk shape you euphemise as blancmange. No wonder foreigners call the English 'puddings'. Zis is my reclamation."

The German *Reklamation* means a query or complaint. *Marmelade* in German is jam made from any sort of fruit, not just oranges. In German *irritieren* means to confuse someone. Although a laborious student, Herman has been taken in by several other false English friends. A false friend is a word *in a foreign language which looks or sounds* like a word in your in your own language but has a different meaning. When Herman says *Ratio* he means reason, and *Politik* means policy for him. In German "overhear" means to be tired of hearing something.

False friends are created by two causes. Many English words started from the same *origins as similar words in other Indo-*European languages, but have developed different meanings. Words start changing *their meanings for native speakers separated* by as little as a river or a parish boundary. They are changed much more and more strangely by a sea or national frontier. For example, "sensible" in English looks like *sensible* (French, Spanish) and *sensibel* (German, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish). But it does not have the same meaning. In *these other languages, the words mean the* same as the English "sensitive". "A preservative" may mean a substance to keep jam or *bodies fresh in English. But in Italian,* French, Spanish, German, Danish, Czech, Polish and Russian it means a condom. In French, *Condom is a town or a rugby-player.*

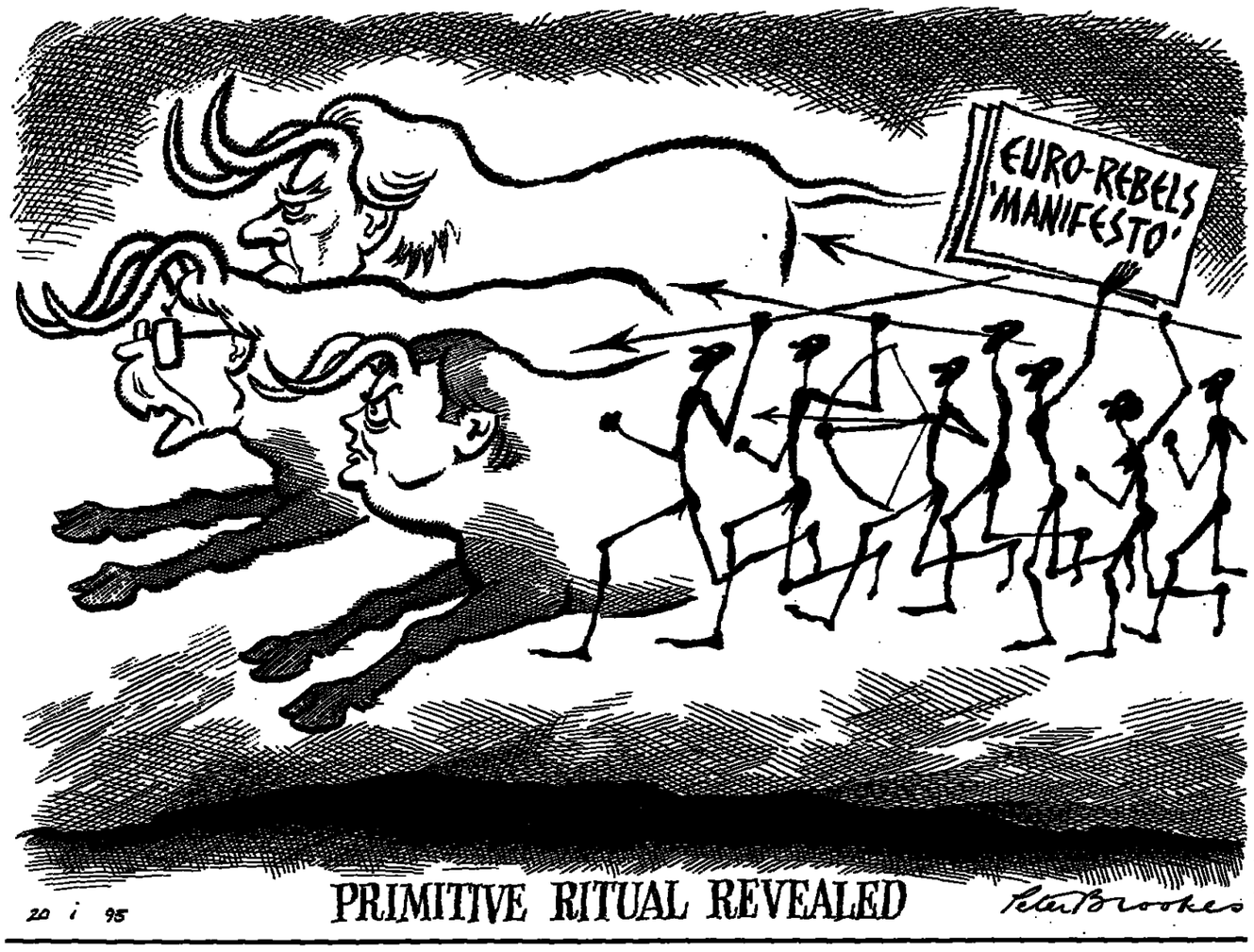
The second way in which false friends let learners down is when English words have been borrowed by other languages for new purposes. For example, "super" has been snitched by several other languages, but not to mean a police superintendent or the jolly-hockey-sticks and old-fashioned English expression of delight. In Japanese and Korean, *super* means a supermarket. In Thai, to confuse us, it means unleaded petrol.

Sabine the Frenchwoman speaks: "I ignore [don't know] the traffic [funny business] of your distracting [entertaining] *language, by which you call my scotch* Sellotape, and my *blouse* means a woman's bodice instead of an overall or a snooker pocket."

Such false friends and traitors of idiom and accent mean that only brilliant linguists (such as George Steiner, who does not quite know what his first language is) are ever going to speak a second language without betraying that they are not to the mannerism born. The best way to learn a language is to live with the native-speakers. But computers are making second languages as well as many other things easier for us all.

To make a dictionary, once upon a Samuel, poor drudges toiled over slips in garrets for decades, ruining their eyesight and their handwriting. A *modern computer can in a* minute riffle through a database of language vaster than they dreamt of in nightmares, identifying false friends for different languages, finding the frequency of collocations (*rain is heavy* rather than strong, *tea is strong* rather than *powerful*), and marking the most common errors of Herman and *how they differ from Sabine's and Kazuo's.*

Next month, Cambridge University Press is launching a new line of English-language reference books with its *International Dictionary of English.* This will vex Oxford University Press and others who have been longer in the field. It may be one of the last great dictionaries between hard covers *before computers and screens take over.* But the public market for dictionaries is inexhaustible. Welcome this latest exposer of *amis faux* and other wonderful quirks and quarks of language.



Imagine: Levin & Levin

Anyone could be an advertising executive like the Saatchis — I nearly fell into the trap myself — but what a bogus business it is

Bernard Levin

Now, now, now, now, *now*! You didn't think, did you, that I would — nay, that I *could* — keep out of the Saatchi business? Shame on you if you did! For it is one of those rare but immensely delightful uproars in which to my eye *everybody involved is perfectly awful.* So awful, indeed, that it is impossible for those on the sidelines (which means everyone except the Saatchis and their opponents) to take sides. But to make sure, I have ordered, all on my cost, a huge quantity of deckchairs and ice-cream cones.

Let's start with the Saatchis themselves. Who are they? If you look in *Who's Who* you will get a considerable shock, for Saatchi the elder (Charles) gives barely three lines which tell us nothing, not even the names of his parents, and his junior (Maurice) adds nothing except that he studied at LSE. (Well, so did I, but I'm not awful.)

The only Saatchis in the Business section of the phone-book are all offshoots of the Saatchi empire itself, and there is no Saatchi at all in the personal book. (Mind you, there are only three Racklins in the book, and all of them are my family; but at least I know where I come from, and I am not too shy to tell the world.) Until the Saatchis tell us, then, I shall go about saying that they started in the stews of Cairo, barely getting a livelihood by selling used carpets.

But did you see the letter, published in full in *The Times*, in which Saatchi *junior vented his spleen (for something* like 40 years I have waited for an opportunity to get that phrase into some*thing I am writing, and at last I have* succeeded)? *Why* don't people in the spleen-venting business stop a moment and and consult me? The letter was a savage assault upon the villains (as Saatchi would think them), and I dare say he went to bed well pleased by the number of wounds he counted upon his enemies. But I could have told him, and *would* have told him if, as I say, he had listened to me. Because, his head buried in the pseudo-science of advertising, he could not understand that *when there is a battle, and it is* manifestly won by X, *anything* said by Y in the form of squealing or shouting or *screaming, let alone all three, is dis*counted in its entirety, having been instantly stored by the bystanders in the file labelled sour grapes.

Anyway, advertising *is* a pseudo-science, and anybody *with a bit of* imagination and intelligence could succeed in it. And — I bet you didn't know this — I tried my hand at it, many years ago, with enormous success, and would have wiped out the entire clan Saatchi if I had continued.

It was like this. My beloved friend Sidney Bernstein was an iconoclast, among other things, and he delighted in clasticing the icons. Sidney loved his Granada television station passionately, but he also loved to pull the rug from *under the experts, and he had got into* his head that the experts were wrong when they said that it was a waste of *money to push the advertising in the* height of summer, because everybody is away, and those who aren't away are sitting in the garden ignoring the media. One weekend when I was staying in his beautiful house, he broached the subject, and told me he *was about to start his* campaign. Whereupon, I had an idea: I said: "If you take space for newspaper *advertising, I will concoct and write* some adverts to match — and". I added, "funny ones at that." "Done," said Sidney, *and off we went.*

I think the ads ran in *The Guardian*, and that would figure, because Sidney's television bailiwick covered Manchester. And I think that each of my ads had *a whole page to itself. But the point of all* this is that I found my ads ludicrously easy to think up and write. (If there is *some octogenarian at The Guardian* who remembers all this and can fill in the gaps, I shall be much obliged, and if there is a nonagenarian who can lay hands on my set of adverts, I shall be even more pleased.)

Anyway, my footsteps turned into a different avenue, and here I am, in the *other — surely more noble — inky trade.*

Although I look down upon the advertising business, I know that we could not get along without it, because without it we would be appallingly *limited in our choices.* Once, many years ago, there was a serious and striking and impartial American newspaper which eschewed advertising altogether; it died, of course, but it lived for an astonishingly long time.

Where was I? Well, all at sea. For a start, I am bewildered by the fact that both sides are calling themselves Saatchi: for instance, among the thousands of headlines floating about like snowflakes, one massive one read "Saatchi agency sues Maurice and *defectors*": *but how can Saatchi sue* Maurice when Maurice is the bloke in the middle being sued? Worse still: "Mr *Maurice Saatchi ... this week an*nounced his intention of setting up in competition with Saatchi and Saatchi." And all of a sudden, when I was least expecting it, somebody else announced that "Saatchi brothers may be sued over Adidas cash row". *I goggled: who is Adi*das, and what does he do for a living? (Not sue me, I trust.) Then more and *more names that I have never heard* of come pouring in — the latest being someone called, mellifluously, Robert *Louis-Dreyfus. Is he Adidas's brother?* And which Saatchi or Saatchis are threatening to sue another lot more of Saatchis?

Then there was the squabble over whose files could be looked at and whose couldn't, and somebody ran away with somebody's hoop, and somebody ran away *with somebody else's drum*, and somebody else stuck a pin in somebody else's balloon, and "... it was revealed in *mid-December that Chicago fund man*ager David Herro was planning to oust Maurice Saatchi from the Chair of ad agency", and I am doubled up at the news that there *is* a Chair of ad agency.

Nor does it end there: as a matter of fact, it won't end before the Christmas after next, because "Embattled Saatchi chief executive *Charlie Scott has accused* Maurice and his colleagues ... of causing as much damage as possible with their resignations ... This is a cynical, organised campaign to destabilise the group and I am appalled.".

Very possibly; but just as I was being *sick all over my boots, somebody sug*gested that Saatchi & Saatchi should change its name; the hero of this bril*liant suggestion is one Tom Russell*, and the thing must be catching on, because "another Saatchi director wanted a new name to be imposed tomorrow", and "the director said that immediately after a name change, the company should relaunch itself. Well, yes, actually, and that's not all. Mr Russell was unconcerned by a threat from a US investor, Arkhurst Investments, to sue Saatchi & Saatchi's directors for damages stemming from Mr Saatchi's ousting. Wheeeee!

But what about my boots? You know, when I was sick all over them. You must remember — it was when the whole creepy-crawly, slap-and-pinch, snarl-and-bum-kiss, greasy-pole and back-slap and back-stab was at its height. And I demand the price of a pair of ruined boots.

Or I'll tell. I'll tell anyone who is listening that this kind of business is a business which, although it is impossi*ble to change fundamentally, will sooner* or later have to change or face revolution. No, nobody will be hanged from *the lamp-posts — it won't be that kind of* revolution, but it will be a revolution nonetheless. A revolution that will say "No, *I shall not go into this bit of* business with you, although it is perfectly legal, because if I did I would *have to have my clothes fumigated as* soon as the business was finished; and, more to the point, I would not wish my *children to despise me*".

I could not be any kind of business man or financier, because I would not understand what it was all about. (The other day, reading, I came across the word "debenture", and I realised that although I had seen the word quite frequently, I have no idea what it is.) *But if I were abreast of such matters,* I would have no stomach for such a fight, because, I believe that bit by bit I would become as those people have become. You will tell me, and it will be true, *that there are many, many businessmen* who are as disgusted as I am at the contemplation of those shenanigans. *Yes: but I would fear, to the end of my* days, that if I were to touch pitch, I would be defiled.

A Fascist at Chatham House?

Denis MacShane

deplores a shaming invitation

Chatham House, as the *Royal Institute for International Affairs* is familiarly known, is Britain's premier think-tank on foreign policy. *Founded in 1920, it gained world* renown with Arnold Toynbee's legendary pre-war annual surveys of global *politics. Its patron is the Queen, and its* presidents are the Lords Callaghan, Jenkins and Carrington. *Funded by the* Government and blue-chip firms, it is a haven for retired diplomats who remain among the most *intellectually capable of* Britain's public servants. Unlike other countries, where there is some pluralism *in foreign policy discussion*, Chatham House's prestige and patronage has overshadowed other bodies seeking to challenge conventional foreign policy.

Yet now Chatham House's reputation is to be put to the test by its extraordinary decision to provide a platform for the rising star of Europe's reborn Fascist movement, *Gianfranco Fini, leader of* the Italian extreme Right.

Fini is general secretary of the MSI party in Italy, the *dominant component* in the Alleanza Nazionale, which entered Berlusconi's coalition Government *last year. The MSI was set up by Giorgio* Almirante, who was an official in the Nazi-backed puppet republic of Salò, set up for Mussolini after the dictator was ousted from Rome. Almirante handpicked the articulate, personable Fini as his successor, and Fini has never swerved from his declaration that "Mussolini was the greatest *statesman* of the 20th century".

Under Berlusconi, Fini himself avoided any *ministerial portfolio, concentrat*ing on the twin tasks of building his party and polishing his image as a charis*matic television performer.* Although he likes to proclaim himself "post-Fascist", Fini has taken care to assure his followers that on all the major themes associated with Fascism he is true to the faith. Explaining his support for Fascism as a student in the 1960s, Fini says "I was a Fascist at a time when all right-wingers were called Fascist. I claimed the label because what others considered an insult to me meant belonging to my political family, the *MSI*".

The evidence that Fini still cleaves to core elements of Fascist ideology is overwhelming. He is irredentist and his party wants to incorporate Fiume and Dalmatia into Italy. Two years ago, he sail*ed to the Slovene and Croatian coasts* and hurled 2,000 bottles into the sea carrying the message *Ritorneremo* ("We will return"). He adores the trappings of Fascist ceremony. At Alleanza Nazionale rallies, his youth section enforces security with black-shirted squads. Fini's rousing speeches are punctuated by the raised-arm "Roman" salute.

Although Fini has publicly denounced anti-Semitism, the MSI-Alleanza Nazionale is anti-Semitic. As the lire came under pressure last autumn, the Labour Minister, one of Fini's placemen, *blamed the currency turmoil on "New* York Jews". At Fini's public meetings, the standard Italian anti-Semitic text on *Freemasonry is prominently on sale.*

Fini has proclaimed a commitment to privatisation while official MSI-*Alleanza Nazionale economic thinking* supports corporatist subsidies for their strongholds in southern Italy; but the *core elements of Fini's Fascism are plain* to all Italians. According to the political commentator Luciano Canfora, "This is not the first time there has been an attempt to make the Fascists respectable, and in this case the essential values at the heart of Fascism remain intact."

Fini most resembles Fascist politi*cians in his intense craving for interna*tional respectability. So this invitation is the biggest coup in his careful pro*gramme to win endorsement outside* Italy as a mainstream political leader.

Along with Berlusconi, Fini continues to call for early elections, *from which he hopes to emerge* with a stronger share of the vote and a claim to be named prime minister. His London speech, due on *February 15, will* fall right in the middle of intense campaigning in Italy by Berlusconi and Fini for new elections, at a time when the rest of Europe hopes that the new Dini *government can stabilise Italian politics* and implement economic reform after the shocks of the past 12 months.

Never before in its history has Chatham House lent its prestige to such an extreme right-wing figure. It is not clear at what level the decision to invite Fini was taken. To be sure, Chatham *House has drifted to the right under the* impact of 15 years of Conservative government, and its bizarrely eclectic speakers' list suggests that speakers are chosen as much for their shock publicity effect as for a contribution to serious analysis of foreign affairs.

In the Commons last summer, the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, went out of his way to defend Fini's party and the importance of dealing with it as an elected component of the Italian Govern*ment.* In the complex search for allies in Europe, it is clear that Hurd saw the new coalition in Rome as a new right-wing partner against Franco-German domination in the EU. So did Hurd nudge Chatham House to endorse Fini?

Whatever the explanation, this blunder is all the more grotesque in the year we celebrate the anniversary of the defeat of Fascism. It should be withdrawn before a mistake becomes an international incident, shaming Britain in the eyes of the victims of Fascism and of those Jews, homosexuals, trade unionists and others in Italy who are terrified of the arrival of Fini in power in Rome.

The author is Labour MP for Rotherham.

Lighting up time

/ESTMINSTER is brightening p. At dusk last night, a switch 'as flicked, sunglasses were don-ed and the four faces of the Big en clocktower were bathed in azzling eco-friendly beams.

Concerned, like everyone else, at ie *size of their electricity bills,* 1Ps on one of the less glamorous ommittees have been examining ays to cut costs. And they claim i have discovered the seemingly npossible: brighter, cheaper imps that should last 13 years at ast, on something known as igh-frequency induction.

Originally, the clock was illumi-ated by Victorian gas lamps, but t 1906 electricity was introduced, ith ten 100-watt bulbs behind ich face.

"Big Ben is a beacon," says Ray owell, MP, chairman of the louse of Commons Accommoda-on and Works Committee. "In ie past it has always been too im. Now we can show off one of ur greatest historical landmarks s it should be seen." It is intended iat the new installation will shave 3,500 a year off electricity and aintenance bills, but Powell xplains that the switch-on itself 'as not a grand affair. "We can't fford it."

● *It pays to be polite. The journal-ist Alexander Chancellor's fine for drunken driving was reduced from £500 to £400 yesterday because, the judge told him, he had been very helpful to the arresting officers when stopped in Kensing-ton after a Christmas party.*

Handy lord

VISCOUNT COWDRAY will be missed by the polo world, but his death this week also robs kitchen staff at his 60,000-acre Aberdeen-shire estate of a man whose advice was readily sought at the stove. The most recent example of his culinary tips came at Christmas when the octogenarian peer turned up from Cowdray Park in Surrey.

When he arrived for breakfast in the morning he learnt that the cook, Christine Morrison, had broken her wrist and was strug-gling with boiled eggs. Cowdray, who lost his left arm in the re-treat from Dunkirk, understood *her plight only too well and* rushed to her aid. "He was amaz-ingly dexterous with his one hand," explains a retainer. "He could top an egg with one hand in a jiffy."



Roll 'em

DINING recently as guests in one of the capital's casinos, the Ritz Club, John and Norma Major were given an abrupt lesson in the draconian regulations endured by British gaming clubs.

Casinos are, by law, obliged to stop serving drinks at midnight, with half an hour's drinking-up time. So at 12.30 precisely, the Prime Minister's unfinished glass of brandy was politely but firmly removed from the dinner table, in accordance with the curfew.

With gambling continuing until 4am, the PM appeared surprised *at the absurdity of the rule. He left* with a note from the management, apologising if his evening was *spoilt, but suggesting he might* like to do something about it.

THE TIMES DIARY

No cod

TWO OF Westminster's fishy rebels, Sir Richard Body and Rupert Allason, showed solidarity with disgruntled fishermen on Wednes-day's *Nine O'Clock News* by munching their way through cod and chips.

The venue for their meal was The Laughing Halibut in West-minster, favourite fish-and-chip emporium of MPs and, increas-ingly, a refuge for piscine rebels. Sir Richard insists he is a regular. "We didn't just do it for the cam-eras. I ate every morsel. Even if our fish did come from the North Sea, the Spanish vessels would be there sooner or later."

Keep stumm

RECENT winners of the lottery *will probably sympathise with the* desire for anonymity expressed by winners back in the 18th century. A poster for the English State Lot-tery of 1786 is coming up for sale at Phillips, the auctioneers.

The lottery total offered was a vast £500,000. The poster lists pre-*vious winners simply as* "a gentle-man in Berkeley Square" or "a society of ladies and gentlemen *from Cornhill*". Tickets cost 6d, and entrants were assured politely of "the earliest intelligence sent of their success".

Huge fan

NORMA MAJOR'S dress sense has seldom been called into ques-tion. Yet next month, her clothes allowance faces one of its sterner tests. She is expected among bid-ders at Sotheby's forthcoming sale of Dame Joan Sutherland's oper-atic costumes.

She has written an uninspiring introduction for the sale's bro-chure, in which she notes that Dame Joan finds the role of Belli-ni's *Norma* her most taxing — hardly surprising considering that



Stupendous: Dame Joan

the character sets fire to herself to-wards the end of the opera.

● *Lord Kagan, who died this week, was an extraordinarily am-bitious chess player. So much so, that he had an eclectic selection of chess sets. "He always managed to find a chess set with obscure-look-ing pieces which his opponent couldn't recognise. That gave him a head start," says a regular com-batant. "And if that didn't work he would sing loudly in Lithua-nian, which would put anyone off."*

P·H·S

REBELS IN ERROR

Yesterday's manifesto on Europe was clear but wrong

Courage and principles are two political qualities possessed in abundance by the rebel MPs who were deprived of the Tory whip late last year by John Major. Realism and tactical finesse are less developed faculties. The manifesto published yesterday by eight of the nine rebels was one of the clearest statements on European policy heard in Britain for 20 years. But its practical effects on European debate are unlikely to be constructive, either for Britain or for the Tory party, whose interests the rebels still claim to have at heart.

The main objections to the rebel manifesto are not that it looks like a further act of defiance against Mr Major and makes the task of bringing the dissenters back into the Tory fold more difficult. It remains as true as ever that the expulsion of nine MPs from the parliamentary party was the fault of the Prime Minister, ill advised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the whips, not of the rebels themselves. Mr Major had no need to make the vote on EU budget contributions an issue of confidence and thereby to raise the stakes. The whole crisis was of the whips' own making and the rebels should not be blamed for refusing to be cowed into silence by their threats.

The real objection to the rebel manifesto lies not in its symbolism or its tactics, but in its contents. The eight proposals, when taken together, amount, in effect, to a call for outright withdrawal from the EU. In making such a call, the rebels have not only cut themselves off from the possibility of any serious influence over government policy. They have also misread public opinion, which is uncomfortable with the drift towards a federal Europe but would need much more serious provocation to contemplate complete withdrawal.

The rebels now risk discrediting the more moderate and constructive Tory Eurosceptics. As soon as the rebels are readmitted into the party, their manifesto will offer an easy target for Labour. Tony Blair will be able to parry justified attacks on his own naive European policies by claiming that the Tories have only united around a hidden agenda that would ultimately take Britain out of the EU.

Even the rebels themselves are not so deluded as to believe that their eight demands must be met before they take back the Tory whip. As Sir Teddy Taylor said yesterday, the manifesto is meant only as "a suggestion" and the immediate objective is only to start a serious debate.

A serious discussion of Britain's EU membership would, indeed, be welcome. The idea of withdrawing from the EU should not be considered taboo, either within the Tory party or in the country. As Norman Lamont has suggested, the pros and cons of EU membership are much more finely balanced than is now taken for granted. There is no reason to accept the simplistic view, all too prevalent in the Labour Party and much of the business community, that Britain is condemned by geography to follow whatever road to political and economic unification the continental countries might choose.

But to call for a debate on Britain's EU membership, of the kind that would inevitably result at the time of a referendum on monetary union or the inter-governmental conference, is very different from advocating withdrawal from the key EU institutions before such a debate has taken place and before the people have given their view.

DESPITE CHECHENIA

Western leaders must stand by Yeltsin

Douglas Hurd yesterday warned Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, that British public opinion was becoming disgusted with Moscow's onslaught on Grozny. In Bonn, Helmut Kohl was forced on the defensive in the Bundestag and said that while he was proud to call President Yeltsin a friend, Russia was not doing enough to end the war. Warren Christopher has been telling Mr Kozyrev that Mr Yeltsin's close relations with America are also in jeopardy. As the battle for Grozny reaches its climax, the West is looking at the toll the war is taking on the Russian leader and on their relations with him.

No one doubts that when the fighting is over, there will be a political slaughter in Moscow. The Russian leader will come under enormous pressure to exact a price for the bungling, wrong advice and incompetence. If he does nothing, his political weakness will be patent for his rivals to see; if he blames the military, however, he could only fuel the anger of the general staff, already deeply frustrated by steep budget and manpower cuts, the undermining of the armed forces' former privileged position and recent political and economic reform.

Mr Yeltsin will have to pay a very high price of his own if he is to re-establish his battered authority. The general staff, even if it forces through a coup against the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, will want a huge increase in military spending. The President's former democratic allies in the Duma will not return to his banner unless he can distance himself from the Chechenia campaign. The public, now suffering a new round of inflation as the rouble plunges, will hold Mr Yeltsin's Government responsible for the economic collapse that is likely to be compounded by its failure to secure a loan from the International Monetary Fund. The wary advisers around the President, fearing for their future, will be unsure whether to turn on him and court his enemies or stick with the embattled leader.

Western statesmen have invested much in Mr Yeltsin. They have learnt not to underestimate a man whose explosions of energy have forced escape from many a political cul-de-sac. He is still seen as the best guarantor of political and economic reform. And, most cogently, they do not see any credible alternative to a leader who still dwarfs the squabbling politicians around him. It is, as diplomats in Moscow are saying, too early to write him off.

In all assessments of a vulnerable foreign leader's domestic standing, the most important calculation must be how credible his opponents are. There are few other so-called Democrats who have the slightest chance in the coming presidential election. Grigori Yavlinsky comes top of the polls and heads the liberal Yabloko faction in the Duma, but he is not the stuff of nationwide appeal; Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, is still Pompidou to Yeltsin's de Gaulle, and must await his boss's departure. Few others are sufficiently known at home or abroad — except, ominously, the Communists and nationalists such as Vladimir Zhirinovsky. It is precisely because these unstable men might top any poll next year that the West must continue support for a President who is the most reliable leader to control Russia's vast nuclear arsenal. Western statesmen may wish to play down this support at home while the television pictures show such carnage. They may wish to use their personal friendship to warn him of a foreign backlash. But it is not the time to abandon him, despite the Chechenia toll.

RESUME NORMAL SERVICE

Radio 4 should preserve its broadcast act of worship

Next month, Radio 4's *Morning Service* will go off the air for four weeks to be replaced by a discussion programme on "emotional issues common to human experience". This will be the second time that the BBC's most familiar religious programme has been cancelled to make way for *Were You There?*, a well-regarded series presented by the broadcaster Rosemary Hartill. Both programmes deserve a place in Radio 4's schedule. But it is deeply regrettable that *Morning Service* should now be regarded as an optional feature rather than a fixture.

To say so may appear pedantic. The BBC denies that the change of plan sounds the death-knell of *Morning Service*. But to the 1.3 million devotees of the programme, the decision to replace it for a month will appear thoughtless and disrespectful. It suggests a misunderstanding both of Radio 4's own cultural role and of the role which religious programming plays in the life of the nation.

Radio 4 listeners are the conservative core of the BBC's consumer constituency. As the campaign to save the channel's long-wave service demonstrated, they react fiercely to substantial change. That does not mean that Radio 4's output should be immutable. The success of programmes such as *The Moral Maze* has illustrated the value of intelligent innovation on an essentially traditionalist radio channel. But there is a difference between providing the soil for new ideas and uprooting a much-loved garden. Radio 4's Sunday morning fixtures — notably *Morning Service* and *The Archers* — are an institution. The station has done itself few favours in recent years by tinkering with its schedule at this time of week. It should tinker further only with the greatest of care.

Secondly, the decision to take *Morning Service* off the air, albeit temporarily, suggests a misconceived approach to religion on radio and television. It might be argued that a programme like *Were You There?* addresses spiritual issues in the same way as a formal religious service and is therefore a reasonable substitute. In fact, the two are quite different sorts of broadcast.

One answers the need in intelligent people for sophisticated discussion of religious, mystical and emotional issues, as do television programmes such *Everyman* and *Heart of the Matter*. The other speaks to the human desire to share a collective act of worship, if only by listening to a radio or watching television. By tuning to *Morning Service*, listeners are given a sense of participation in a Christian ritual involving people all over the country.

It is often assumed that such programmes are outdated in a secular age that prefers its religion laced with doubt and debate. In fact, there is strong evidence that viewers and listeners continue to value broadcast services. BBC's *Songs of Praise*, for example, is regularly watched by more than five million people. A survey published last year by the Independent Television Commission suggested powerful support for the traditional "God slot". More people experience acts of worship through electronic media than by their presence in church. In *Morning Service*, Radio 4 has a core asset which should not be traded for faddishness or current trends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

West inconsistent in foreign affairs

From Professor Vladimir J. Konečni

Sir, In 1991, when the Yugoslav Government and Army, without firing a shot, tried in Slovenia to preserve the borders and the territorial integrity of a viable, legitimate, and for 70 years an internationally recognized country — Yugoslavia — the European Community and the United States did nothing positive.

On the contrary, led by Germany, they did everything in their power to dissolve Yugoslavia by quickly recognizing first Slovenia, then Croatia, then Bosnia and Herzegovina, then the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The present-day analogy would be for Germany to recognize Chechenia without consulting its allies and for the UN then to send troops to protect an "internationally recognized" country and create a "safe haven" in Grozny.

When the Algerian Government in 1992 cancelled elections which the Muslim fundamentalists were about to win, there was hardly a squeak heard in protest from the United States, let alone an invasion *à la* Grenada or Haiti to restore "democracy". And the West does not like Milosević in Belgrade even though he has been twice democratically elected.

So there are "good" and "bad" attempts to preserve the territorial integrity of a country and "good" and "bad" winners of democratic elections, just as there are apparently "good Muslims" in Bosnia and the Gulf, and "bad Muslims" everywhere else. The answer to the apparent conundrum is that power and economic interests, not justice or international law, guide Western behavior.

Yours etc,
VLADIMIR J. KONECNI,
327 Shoemaker Lane,
Solana Beach, California 92075, USA.
January 16.

Tories and Europe

From Mr Tom King, MP for Bridgwater (Conservative), and others

Sir, In the light of the ongoing debate about the future developments of the European Community and Britain's role within it, the vast majority of Conservatives support a clear-headed and practical approach to securing what is in Britain's best interests.

They do want to be part of a Europe in which it is easy to travel and free to trade, but want to see less intervention in their day-to-day lives from Brussels. Few want more constitutional changes arising from next year's Intergovernmental Conference, and would support any move to block such changes. They want Britain to be a member of a Europe of nation states, not a superstate.

In short, they support the Government's negotiating position set out recently by the Prime Minister.

Yours etc,
TOM KING,
BOB DUNN,
ANTHONY DURANT,
DAVID EVANS,
ARCHIE HAMILTON,
PETER HORDERN,
DAVID HOWELL, M. JOPLING,
JILL KNIGHT,
FERGUS MONTGOMERY,
JIM PAWSEY,
DONALD THOMPSON,
House of Commons.
January 19.

Mandel recalled

From Mr Nicholas Ogilethorpe

Sir, The gallant Georges Mandel was not "an obscure politician of the Third Republic", as Charles Bremner describes him in his report (January 7) on the recent rise to political prominence of Nicolas Sarkozy, but a remarkable and strong minister.

A First World War political adviser to "Tiger" Clemenceau at the most dangerous times, Mandel was later one of the few French politicians to understand the Nazi threat in its full horror, and to be utterly determined to resist.

Mandel accepted the office of Minister of the Interior on May 18, 1940, when France faced disaster. He kept his head and stiffened resistance as best he could, wanting to take it to Algeria and the French colonies, and was prevented from doing so only by treachery. On June 16, 1940, he refused an opportunity to escape with de Gaulle on the following day.

Imprisoned by the Vichy government, Mandel was murdered on Gestapo orders on July 7, 1944. His memory deserves the honour no doubt afforded to it by M Sarkozy.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS OGLETHORPE,
15 Poplar Avenue,
Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk.
January 8.

Crowd-puller?

From Mr David Graney

Sir, As a BBC1 viewer, I feel rather insulted to read (report, January 18) that a period drama, *The Buccaneers*, can only be made "accessible" to people like me by the introduction of a "rape and a homosexual encounter".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GRANEY,
Furlong House, High Street,
Shrewton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
January 18.

Conservation of listed buildings

From Mrs Nicholas Graham

Sir, Nobody should be surprised by the thought of fines, or threat of imprisonment, if "irreparable damage" is caused to a Grade II listed house (letters, January 3, 6, 11). What right has anyone to ruin our diminishing stock of 15th-century houses, or 19th-century houses, for that matter?

Supportive yelps will always be heard from those who flout the law, those who are too idle or too impatient to complete the simple forms provided by their local planning authority — a source which, in my experience, provides free and expert advice.

I am delighted to know that if in this Grade II house we start to demolish the porte cochère, install plastic windows, paint our stucco "day-glow" orange or pick-axe an original fireplace, the entire conservation section of Canterbury City Council "will be down on us like a ton of bricks", and quite right, too.

Few people are willing to restore a listed building unless they are secure in the knowledge that successive owners will be prevented from "Gormanising" it.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE GRAHAM,
Petham House,
Petham, Canterbury, Kent.
January 11.

From Mr Anthony Wigram, FRICS

Sir, I believe that much more detailed work needs to be done over the listing of Grade II buildings, and the specific parts of those buildings which ought to be listed.

It may well be reasonable for the exterior of pleasant although unexceptional 17th and 18th-century buildings to be protected; but the case for bureaucratic interference with alterations to interiors of merely vernacular interest is surely mistaken, particularly if such buildings cannot be put to reasonably beneficial use without modern kitchens, bathrooms, heating and insulation.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
Highfield House,
4 Woodfall Street, SW3.
January 10.

From Mr K. E. Wills

Sir, Assuming that it is right and proper to protect and conserve our architectural heritage, and that there is no point in making regulations if they are not to be enforced, is it not a fact that far too many buildings are listed and that many, though they may be properly listed, are too highly graded?

Many of the 700,000 currently listed buildings must be of questionable architectural and aesthetic merit — particularly at the Victorian and post-Victorian end of the scale, and yet their restoration, or even simple repair, is being made impossibly difficult because they are caught, for no sound reason, in the listed building net.

It was surely never the purpose of the Town and Country Planning Act to condemn sound and usable buildings to dereliction; but that could well be its effect unless the criteria for listing buildings are very carefully examined.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
K. E. WILLS
(Managing Director),
Commercial Group Holdings,
2-16 High Street,
Margate, Kent.
January 9.

Horticultural library

From Mr John S. Mattock

Sir, It is precisely because the Lindley Library, the greatest horticultural library in the world, has outgrown its totally inadequate premises in Westminster that necessitates its resiting (Sir Roy Strong's letter, January 14).

With the existing facilities and lack of space, only about one tenth of this priceless contribution to horticultural knowledge is ever easily available to visit and consult.

There are also vast quantities of very valuable paintings and memorabilia which rarely see the light of day. The cellars of the Royal Horticultural Society are not the most flourishing of conditions to store them in, and the roof of the library leaks like a sieve.

Surely this library would be better accommodated in custom-built premises at Wisley in spacious surroundings with ample car parking, where a visit can be combined with a walk in very pleasant surroundings and a very superior restaurant is available.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MATTOCK
(Council member, Royal Horticultural Society, 1973-86),
14 Hill Rise,
Gidley Way, Horspath, Oxford.
January 16.

From Mr John Harris

Sir, Sir Roy Strong's plea for the retention of the Lindley Library in London is a reminder of the disaster that has befallen the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments since its removal in May 1994 to Swindon. It has become "user-unfriendly".

I recently made inquiries of those who regularly used this great collection of architectural photographs when in London. Out of 28 only one has been to Swindon. A day's consultation from London must include the £39 standard return rail fare. There are now constant complaints as to the inadequacy of communication from a distance, because the eyes of the NMR staff cannot be a substitute for those of the user. The National Monuments Record will wither.

I believe that the Lindley Library will similarly wither. To get to Wisley by public transport requires train, bus and a walk.

If the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society takes this decision, it will be tantamount to closing the library down.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS,
16 Limerston Street, SW10.
January 14.

From Mr Edward W. Petts

Sir, Sir Roy Strong is causing quite unnecessary alarm.

I have no doubt that the scholars from all over the world who wish to visit the Lindley Library will manage to join the 681,164 visitors who made the "major expedition" to Wisley Gardens in 1993.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD W. PETTS,
29 Crichton Road,
Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.
January 14.

Clause Four debate

From Mr R. L. Sturch

Sir, Whether the Labour Party's Clause Four should be changed or not, those who wish to retain it are not "living in the past" (headline, January 11). The clause was not intended as a response to the conditions of 1918, but as a target for the (possibly distant) future; and it is if anything the future that its supporters are living in.

Yours truly,
R. L. STURCH,
3 The Rise, Islip,
Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

From the Editor of Tribune

Sir, Your correspondents, Jill Sherman and Arthur Leathley, report (January 11) that Labour Party sources had told them that "much of the Defend Clause Four campaign is being run out of *Tribune* offices".

This claim is wrong. While *Tribune* has taken a strong editorial line on the issue, as might be expected of a socialist newspaper, the campaign for Clause Four is not being run from these offices. We lack the resources to do so, apart from anything else. Indeed *Tribune* has been the only newspaper to afford the protagonists from all sides of the argument space for their views. That we will continue to do.

But *Tribune* did argue from the beginning that this was an unnecessary debate which would divide the party. It looks as though we were right.

Yours sincerely,
MARK SEDDON,
Editor, *Tribune*,
308 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Corruption in politics

From Lord Blake, FBA

Sir, May I expand on my remark, which you quote from my evidence to the Nolan committee (report, January 18, earlier editions), that "it would be difficult to write an interesting book on corruption in Britain between 1895 and 1995".

I may have expressed myself badly. I was referring to Professor Geoffrey Searle's authoritative book, *Corruption in British Politics 1895-1930*, and I meant that it would be difficult to write a similar book on the periods 1860-95 or 1930-65, because there is nothing much to write about.

The years dealt with by Professor Searle were exceptional — till recently.

Yours faithfully,
BLAKE,
Riverview House, Brundall, Norwich.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Bird cull protest

From Mr H. J. Marden

Sir, Your report, "Anglers' cormorant cull leads to protest" (early editions, January 12), says that research on the Tweed has shown that a goosander consumes "up to 1,600 parr over an 18-month period".

Any fisherman worth his salt knows that mergansers, goosanders and cormorants perform a cull. Perhaps 80 per cent of the parr involved would be sick and injured.

The diet of these birds also includes eels, lampreys, perch, roach and pike, each of which feeds on salmon and sea trout eggs and parr. I have fished some of Scotland's finest salmon rivers over the past 30 years and find the argument for protecting salmon stocks by allowing more birds to be shot wholly unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. MARDEN,
131 Stewarton Drive,
Cambuslang, Glasgow.
January 13.

Furore over live animal exports

From Mr Chaim Bermant

Sir, It seems to me that an unholy alliance has emerged between environmentalists and the animal lobby to destroy British farming.

The former argue that the farmer is the enemy of the earth, and farming an assault on nature, and they would ideally like to see the British countryside revert to wilderness.

The latter has in the meantime been spreading the idea that all movement of livestock is cruel. It is no longer a matter of calves in crates. Sheep transports are also being stopped. At this rate it will soon be impossible for farmers to move livestock to market.

I don't know which is the more disturbing, the excesses of the animal lobby or the quiescence of the farmers.

Yours faithfully,
CHAIM BERMANT,
c/o Aitken, Stone & Wylie Ltd,
29 Fernshaw Road, SW10.
January 18.

From Mr David Gibbon

Sir, Three cheers for the citizens of Brightlingsea (report, January 19).

The live transport of farm animals has been exposed by the RSPCA and others as a most viciously callous trade but it is just the tip of the iceberg. Veal production is only one outrageous example. Turkey-rearing and intensive egg production both involve cruelty that, if it were applied to budgies, would lead to prison sentences. If dogs were treated as pigs are, it would cause a public uproar.

I am not surprised that ordinary people in their thousands have joined the protests against the live transport of animals. The growing availability of vegetarian food in the supermarkets makes it clear that more and more people are voting with their shopping baskets too.

We should be proud that we have an ethical movement in which the people of Britain are leading the world.

Yous faithfully,
DAVID GIBBON,
145 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh 9.
January 19.

From Mr Paul Caswell

Sir, The present furore over animal exports, like the earlier campaign against the community charge, points to a defect in our constitutional arrangements. The "one-cause" group sees no legitimate means of getting its way, so it turns to public demonstrations, wasting police time and risking violent elements getting their head.

We may not wish to see in this country referendums becoming as commonplace as in Switzerland and California. But perhaps a legal specification for independently supervised and privately financed advisory referendums might take the steam out of some of these situations.

They could be supervised by a body such as the Electoral Reform Society with a minimum 25 per cent poll in each of at least three quarters of the Westminster constituencies. If a two thirds majority were gained, then the law might require that Parliament hold a full debate.

Some such legitimised channel is needed now that our MPs are so well-whipped.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL CASWELL,
57 Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall.
January 16.

Compulsory purchase

From the Managing Director of Thames Water

Sir, Your report (January 17) on the landowner who claims he was "exploited" by our predecessors, the Metropolitan Water Board, omitted to say that his case was carefully reviewed by the local ombudsman in 1988, who cleared the then water authority of accusations of administrative error and unreasonableness.

It is no surprise to us — though it may be to others — that the Country Landowners' Association had to cite a 30-year-old case in support of its argument. Today, compulsory purchase orders are virtually unknown in this company.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. ALEXANDER,
Managing Director,
Thames Water Utilities,
Nugent House,
Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire.

A sour taste

From Mr P. M. B. Savage

Sir, Surely Joyce Grenfell wins the prize for restaurant horror stories (letters, January 11, 13): she was sitting within earshot of the kitchen door and heard one waiter, as he was going out, say to another: "She's eaten it!"

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SAVAGE,
Aynhoe Park,
Nr Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr David L. Medd

Sir, Many years ago, in the restaurant in Ham House, Richmond, I asked if the apple tart on the menu was cold. The reply of the waitress was: "Nearly".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. MEDD,
5 Pennyfathers Lane, Harmer Green,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

صحتنا من الاهمل

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 19: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon attended a meeting of the trustees at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 19: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon attended a meeting of the trustees at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness, Patron, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, this evening opened the Birmingham Conservatoire's extension at Paradise Place.

The Prince Edward afterwards attended a Concert celebrating the twenty first Anniversary of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Chorus followed by the Chorus's twenty first Birthday Party in Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, this morning launched a Research Report into the causes of basic skills difficulties at Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon attended the Union of Communication Workers' celebration of the endowment of Carers Holiday Breaks at UCW House, Crescent Lane, Clapham, London SW4.

The Princess Royal, President, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, this evening attended a Farewell Dinner for the Lord Attenborough at 195 Piccadilly, London W1.

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 19: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, received Colonel Anthony McMahon, Regimental Colonel, upon relinquishing his appointment and Colonel Charles Blount upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, received Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Westcott upon assuming the appointment of Commanding Officer, 7 Regiment.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 19: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Anglo-German Association, this evening attended a dinner in honour of Professor Dr Kurt Biedenkopf, the Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony, St James's Palace, London SW1.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 19: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited Danson House Residential Care Home for the Elderly, 29 Glynde Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Reception

Fulbright Commission

Mrs Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, welcomed the guests, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, at a reception held last night at Lancaster House in honour of the American Fulbrigh students, scholars and fellows in the United Kingdom. Mr William J. Crowe, Jr, American Ambassador, spoke on behalf of the American Government.

Dinners

Marketors' Company

Mr T.S. Corrigan, Master of the Marketors' Company, presided at the installation dinner held last night at Stationers' Hall. Mr B. Scanlon, Senior Warden, and Mr V.H. Watson also spoke.

Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners

Mr Steven Norris, MP, was the host at a dinner of the Association of Master Lightermen and Barge Owners (Port of London) held last night at the House of Commons.

New president

Mr Keith Henshall has become president of the Institute of Public Relations.

Latest wills

Mr Robin Francis **Cavendish**, of Drayton St Leonard, Oxfordshire, disabled rights campaigner, left estate valued at £830,489 net.

Mr George William James Hamilton **Wright**, of Hawkhurst, Kent, left estate valued at £4,796,301 net. He left £5,000 each to the parishes of St Magnus, Bessingby, North Humberside, and St Nicholas, Sandhurst, Kent, and to St Anne's Home Endowment Fund, Bridlington, and £3,000 each to the RNLI, RSPCA and National Trust.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Mrs Phyllis Mary **Fraser**, of London N6 £836,491

Mr Christopher Giles **Greaves**, of London N6 £1,166,204

Mrs Muriel Gregory, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire £713,503

Mr Raymond Henry **Howard**, of Burnham on Crouch, Essex £679,961

Mr Anthony Sidney **Rissen-Kent**, of Newark, Nottinghamshire £660,816

Irene Bessie **Lock**, of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire £957,109

Mrs Joan Warre **Ricketts**, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset £817,647

Mr Arthur Austin **Titmuss**, of Leagrave, Bedfordshire £1,460,782

Mr Ralph Henry **Wallace**, of Wolviston, Cleveland, late farmer £890,987

Mrs Theodora Eileen **Spurge**, of Harwich, Essex £838,460

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the Cynon Valley project at 4 Knight Street, Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan, at 2.15; and, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will launch the Safer Cities project at Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, at 11.00 and will tour the Dowlais Estate.

Lecture

Foundation for Science and Technology

The French Ambassador attended a lunchtime lecture of the Foundation for Science and Technology held yesterday at One Great George Street. The Hon William Waldegrave, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation, presided jointly. M François Fillon was the speaker.

The Dresden Trust

The Minister-President of Saxony, Professor Kurt Biedenkopf, was last night guest of honour at a dinner given by The Dresden Trust at St James's Palace, in the presence of HRH the Duke of Kent, KG. Professor Biedenkopf spoke about the reconstruction of the Frauen Kirche in Dresden which is to be crowned by a Cross made in Britain and given by the Trust.

Meeting

Shipwrights' Company

On behalf of The Queen, Mr Michael Robinson, Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, presented the Queen's Silver Medal for the Shipyard Apprentice of 1994 to Mr Gary Nolan, of Devonport Management, and the company's Bronze Medal to Mr James Fordham, of the Berthon Boat Company, Lymington, at a court meeting held yesterday at Ironmongers' Hall. Mr Robinson also presented Lieutenant Richard Hutchins, RN, with the Fieldhouse Memorial Medal for 1994.

Catholic Independent Schools' Conference

The Catholic Independent Schools' Conference, 1990's Group, held its Annual Conference yesterday at St Mary's School, Ascot. The Keynote Addresses were given by The Reverend Professor Jack Mahoney, SJ, and Sister Judith Russi, SSMN.

Colonel W.H. Whitbread

The Memorial Service for Colonel W.H. Whitbread will be held at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall in the City of London on Tuesday, March 21, at 11.30am.

Loriners' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Loriners' Company: Master, Alderman Sir Francis McWilliams; Upper Warden, Mr John F.S. Northcott; Under Warden, Mr John A. Bischoff.

Birthdays today

Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation architect, 83; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 59; Mr George Burns, actor and comedian, 99; Mr Justice Chadwick, 54; Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player, 57; the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral, 66; Lord Ewing of Kirkford, 64; the Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former president, Wolfson College, Oxford, 77; Miss Liza Goddard, actress, 45; Lord Hanson, 73; the Marquess of Headfort, 63; Major Dick Hern, racehorse trainer, 74; Mr J.K. Ind, former headmaster, Dover College, 60; Mr Royalton Kisch, conductor, 76; Mr David Lynch, film producer, 49; Commandant Voula McBride, former director, WRNS, 74; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 50; Mr Max Morrison, governor, Albany Prison, 51; Mr Natan Sharansky, Soviet dissident, 47; Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 56; Mr Nigel Williams, novelist, 47; Mr John Witherow, editor, The Sunday Times, 43.



Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut, is 65 today

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, Hanover, 1707; Theobald Tone, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1763; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Lyons, 1775; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1944, Farsoe, Denmark, 1873; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Austria, 1910; Roy Plomley, creator of Desert Island Discs, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1914.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Kherson, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, London, 1837; Jean François Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Charles Doughty, explorer in Arabia, Sissinghurst, Kent, 1926; King George V, reigned 1910-36, Sandringham, 1936; Robinson Jeffers, poet, Carmel, California, 1962; Edmund Blunden, poet and critic, Long Melford, Suffolk, 1974; Johnny Weissmuller, olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1984.

The first assembly of The Commons, 1265.

Hong Kong was ceded to Britain from China, 1841.

Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition led by Sir Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole, 1958.

Service dinner

London Rifle Brigade Rangers

Lieutenant-Colonel Kyrle Simond presided at the annual dinner of the London Rifle Brigade Rangers held last night at The Royal Green Jackets London Club. Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Hamilton-Baillie, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, were among those present.

Archaeology

Mayfair Roman fort theory 'is illusory'

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE idea that London began as a Roman fort in Mayfair has been challenged, on the grounds that the evidence cited is "illusory". A location in Southwark, close to the Thames and more secure from attack, is much more likely and is supported by the numismatic evidence.

The challenge to Bill Sole's controversial "Metropolis in Mayfair" thesis comes from Nicholas Fuentes of the Museum of London, who argues for the invasion fort of AD 43 as being near the Elephant and Castle, south London. This would, he says, have created "a sense of occasion" when the Emperor Claudius, newly arrived from Rome, led his troops across the Thames into enemy territory.

The Mayfair fort, allegedly located just east of Park Lane, is predicated on the supposed antiquity of the street pattern in the area, Mr Fuentes says. However, maps of the 16th and 17th centuries do not show a precursor to Park Street, a vital strand in Mr Sole's argument.

In favour of a Southwark origin for London is the fact that coins found there match those from other Claudian supply bases of AD 43 on the Kent and Sussex coast. Michael Hammerson, who has analysed the coins, suggests the move across the Thames to the present City of London took place only after AD 50.

"The map evidence cited by Mr Sole may be seen as illusory." Mr Fuentes says in the London Archaeologist. "The flatness of northern Southwark would have had a much greater appeal as an initial occupation site than the hillsides of the City."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.L. Awre and Miss G.M. Power
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Awre, of Bath, Avon, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Power, of Altrincham, Cheshire.

Mr R.A.M. Baker and Miss K.M. Gordon
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Major D.R. Baker and of Mrs Bettine Baker, of Tewin, Hertfordshire, and Karen, daughter of the late Mr G. Gordon and of Mrs Lorraine Gordon, of Tregear, NSW, Australia.

Mr M.J. Brown and Miss V. Norwood
The engagement is announced between Martyn, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Brown, of Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, and Vanessa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Norwood, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.A. Brown and Miss R.G. Mucklow
The engagement is announced between Alex, son of Mr and Mrs A. Brown, of Guildford, Surrey, and Romellie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Mucklow, of Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Mr T.H. Cotterell and Miss J.B.S. Morris
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Charles Cotterell, of Redlynch Park, Bruton, Somerset, and Josephine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Morris, of Wenvoe, South Glamorgan.

Mr I.M.R. Curry and Miss P.J. Koval
The engagement is announced between Jason Michael Robert, second son of Mr and Mrs John Curry, of Finchampstead, Berkshire, and Paula Joanne, only daughter of Mr Peter Koval, of Vermillion, Dakota, USA, and Mrs Christine Walsh, of Exeter, Devon.

Mr G.O. Firth and Miss S.A. Leach
The engagement is announced between Greg, younger son of Mr and Mrs Allan Firth, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mike Leach, of Oxshott, Surrey.

Mr R.M. Harper and Miss S.M. Bilton
The engagement is announced between Miles, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Harper, of Cheltenham, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr Peter Bilton, of Rolston, East Yorkshire, and Mrs Barbara Bilton, of Stopham, West Sussex.

Mr N.D. Hazell and Miss D.D. Glendinning
The engagement is announced between Neil, younger son of Mr and Mrs G.F. Hazell, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Daphne, younger daughter of Mr Jim Glendinning, of West Ashling, West Sussex and the late Mrs Sally Ann Glendinning.

Captain R.W. Hughes, RE, and Miss R.C. Watson
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Hubert Hughes, of Deganwy, North Wales, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Watson, of Sleningford Grange, Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Captain W.J. Inglis and Miss C.E. Hill
The engagement is announced between Captain William James Inglis, Scots Guards, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ian Inglis, of Cambuswallace, Biggar, Lanarkshire, and Charlotte Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Hill, of Weavers Farm, Bineger, Somerset.

Mr A.P. Isherwood and Miss E.A. Poulton
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Isherwood, of Cannon Park, Coventry, Warwickshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Poulton, of Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex.

Mr A.W. Larsson and Miss H.D. Macnair-Smith
The engagement is announced between Andrew Whitehall, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Larsson, of Arnside, Cumbria, and Helen Dunlop, daughter of the late Colonel James Macnair-Smith and of Mrs Friedericke Macnair-Smith, of London and Velden, Austria.

Major M.A. Lodge and Dr J.A. Pounder
The engagement is announced between Major Mark Lodge, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs David Lodge, of York, and Jacqueline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pounder, of Studland, Dorset.

Mr M.R. McElya and Miss N. Adcock
The engagement is announced between Mitchel, son of Mr Bob McElya and of the late Mrs Anne McElya, of Louisville, Kentucky, and Noelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Adcock, of Kingston, Surrey, and Redbrook, Gloucestershire.

Mr J. O'Hara and Miss C.R. Fenn-Smith
The engagement is announced between Joseph, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Edward O'Hara, of Caernarfon, Gwynedd, and Catherine, daughter of Mr Guy Fenn-Smith, of Pimlico, London, and Mrs Jane Fenn-Smith, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.

Mr R.S. Philip and Miss S.St.C. Howie
The engagement is announced between Richard, third son of Mr and Mrs Ian Philip, of Vaucluse, Sydney, Australia, and Shona, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Howie, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

Mr R.L. Sinclair and Miss R.V. Francis
The engagement is announced between Robin Lewis, elder son of Mr and Mrs S.A. Sinclair, of Dalston, Cumbria, and Rachel Victoria, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs John M. Francis, of Edinburgh.

Mr R.A.V. Smith and Miss S.V. Longmore
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Roderick Smith, of King's Lynn, and Susan, youngest daughter of Professor and Mrs Donald Longmore, of Staines.

Mr C.E.M. Stone and Miss E.H. Latter
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of the late Mr Simon Stone and of Mrs Carole Stone, of Farnham, Surrey, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Latter, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr A.D. Sutherland and Miss H.R. Packer
The engagement is announced between Angus David, son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Sutherland, of Selkirk, Roxburghshire, and Holly Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.D. Packer, of Bickley, Kent.

Mr W.R. Templer and Miss C.J. Chamberlen
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Major General J.R. Templer, of West Winterslow, Wiltshire, and Mrs Peter Allfrey, of Bath, and Camilla, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Chamberlen, of Ringmer, Sussex.

Marriage

Major D.W.D. Barnes and Mrs G.R. Stevenson
A service of blessing was held at St Michael's, Chester Square, on Thursday, January 19, after the marriage of Major Denis Barnes to Mrs Gillian Stevenson, née Eastwood.

A reception will be held at a later date.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Charles Roberts, Assistant Priest, St Saviour's, Claremount, Capetown, South Africa: to be Curate, Bath Abbey w. St James (Bath and Wells)

The Rev Phillip Robinson, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Giles, Ickenham: to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), St Giles, Ickenham (Lotidon)

The Rev John Ryder, Assistant Curate, St Faith, Havant: to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Godshill and St Alban, Ventnor, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth)

The Rev James Smith, Vicar, Codicote: to be also Rural Dean of Hatfield (St Albans).

The Rev Andrew Stamp, Rector, All Saints, Botley and Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Curdridge and Holy Cross, Durley: to be Rector, All Saints, Botley, Vicar, St Peter, Curdridge and Rector, Holy Cross, Durley, held in plurality (Portsmouth)

The Rev Stephen Startup, Assistant Curate, St Thomas, Oakwood: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Grange Park (London)

The Rev John Travers, Rector, Shingay group of parishes (Ely): to be Vicar, Hamble (Winchester)

The Rev Jeffrey Vaughan, Assistant Curate, St Alphage, Burnt Oak: to be Vicar, Saints Peter and Paul, Enfield Lock (London)

The Rev Richard White, Curate, St Philip, Leicester: to be Priest (incumbent status), w. special responsibility for Old Dalby and Nether Broughton in the proposed Ashfordby/Old Dalby/Ab Kettleby group (Leicester)

The Rev Patrick Whitworth, Vicar, Christ Church, Gipsy Hill (Southwark): to be Rector, All Saints, Bath Weston (Bath and Wells)

The Rev Patricia Wick, Assistant Curate, Drypool Team Ministry, w. special responsibility for the Victoria Dock development: to be Team Vicar, Drypool, w. special responsibility for the Victoria Dock development (York), for a period of five years

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As the earth puts forth the blossom or plants in the garden burst into flower, so will the Lord God make his victory and renown blossom before all nations. Isaiah 61 : 11 (REB)

BIRTHS

BAYLISS - On 16th January, to Sarah and Jonathan, a son, Caspar Jeremy Lyle.

BEST-SHAW - On January 17th 1995, to Emily (née Rubin) and Thomas, a son, Joshua John Kirkland.

BRIDGES - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen (née Case) and Andrew, a beautiful son, George, a brother for Albert.

DALRYMPLE - On 17th January at The Portland Hospital, to Siân (née ap Rees) and Mark, a son, Carwyn Garth Taliesin, a brother for Trahaearn and Jared.

DEARDEN - On Tuesday 17th January 1995, in Moscow, to Yelena (née Yurova) and Jonathan, a son, Felix Jonathan.

EATON - On 13th January 1995, to Catherine (née Robins) and Neil, a daughter, Charlotte Victoria.

FLOWERS - On January 15th 1995, to Noel Chuir (née Hong) and Matthew, a son, Jackson Hong Fu, a brother to Patrick.

FREWEN - On January 12th, to Rosine (née Williamson) and Robert, a son, Jerome Fergus d'Estouteville, a brother for Jessie.

JERMAN - On Wednesday 18th January, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, to Tracy and Toby, a daughter, Hannah Victoria, weighing 7lbs 13oz.

JOLY - On 18th January, at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, to Catherine and James, a daughter, Serena.

KITCHING - On January 17th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Sarah-Jane (née Allaker) and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Annabel Lucy Sophia, a sister for Vanessa.

LOMAS - On January 14th, to Sophie (née FitzGerald) and Christopher, a son, Hugo Patrick, a brother for Imogen.

MESSENT - On 17th January, to Emma (née Le Marquand) and Michael, a son, Jack Le Marquand.

O'BYRNE - On 17th January 1995, to Jane and Dominic, a daughter, Charlotte Alexandra and a son, Thomas Louis. The brightest future awaits all of us.

REDFORD - On January 9th, to Samantha (née May) and Johnny, a daughter, Isabella Phoebe Ann.

ROBERTSON - On December 1st 1994, in London, to Susan (née Cogger) and Graham, a son, James Jonathan Rory William.

ROCHER - On 14th January in Colombes, to Olivier and Jennifer (née Haines), a son, Alexandre James.

DEATHS

BANDARATILLAKA - On Tuesday 10th January 1995, died suddenly at home, Phillis, formerly secretary to the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, latterly barrister's clerk. Friends wishing to pay their last respects please meet at the church at 11.30 am. Funeral service at John Keble Church, Church Close, Mill Hill, London NW7 at 12.15 pm on Tuesday 24th January 1995, followed by cremation at Hendon Crematorium, Holders Hill Road, London NW7 at 1 pm. Dearly loved and sadly missed. Enquiries to Rosmaara Jobez, 50 Deansway, Edgware, Middlesex.

BORROW - On January 18th peacefully, Joan Mary. Formerly of Blue Circle Cement. Funeral Service at 12 noon on Friday January 27th at St Julian's Church, Kingston Bucl, Shoreham-by-Sea. No flowers by request but, if desired, donations to St Barnabas Hospice c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd., 289 Goring Road, Goring, Worthing, tel: (01903) 249913.

BROWN - Peter Hindley, on January 17th. Dearest husband of Anne, loving and devoted father of Martin, Pru and David. Very loving and proud grandfather of Richard, Nicholas, India, Olivia, James and Clementine. Family funeral tomorrow. Thanksgiving Service at 2.30 pm on Saturday 18th February at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford. No flowers please.

CAPLAN - Isador. Lawyer, socialist and humanist. Died on 17th January, at the age of 82, in Putney NHS Hospital, after a period of failing health. Beloved and admired husband of Joan, father of Sally, Jane and Charlotte, grandfather of Daniel, Gideon, Jessica and Samuel. Funeral for family and close friends on Wednesday 25th January, 11 am at Mortlake Crematorium; enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Sons, 081-948-1551. Isador's principles and compassion extended to many fields. His family suggest donations in lieu of flowers to Friends of the Earth, 26 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ (Reg. Charity no. 281661), or to the Mandela Scholarship Fund, c/o University of Sussex, Falmer House, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QF (Reg. Charity no. 292626).

COLES - On Monday January 16th, peacefully at home in Leatherhead, John A., much loved husband, father and grandfather. Private funeral by request. Donations, if desired, to The Stroke Association, London.

COWDRAY - On 19th January, Weetman John Churchill, 3rd Viscount Cowdray, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst. Funeral for family and close friends at St Mary's, Easebourne, on Tuesday 24th January at 2pm. Memorial Services will be held in London and Aberdeenshire, the arrangements for which will be announced later.

CUBITT - On 18th January, Mary Teresa (née Nagle) aged 79, beloved wife of the late Dr. Roland Cubitt, loving mother and grandmother. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Stanford, on 26th January. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to CAFOD, ARC and St Barnabas Hospice, Lincoln. Enquiries to W.C. Allenby, 68 Main Street, Aswick, tel: (0526) 832319.

DYSON-LAURIE - Grisel, peacefully in her sleep, 18th January. Dearly beloved wife of the late Wausden and adored mother of Hugh and William. Funeral 11.30 am Wednesday 26th January, St Nicholas Church, Pyrford. No flowers.

ELLIOTT - On January 17th suddenly at his home in Sussex, Edward McCosh (Teddy), adored husband of Penny. Funeral at St Mark's, Staplefield, Thursday 26th January at 12 noon. Enquiries to P. Gallagher (0444) 451166.

FAIRWEATHER - On January 17th, 1995, peacefully in Kent and Sussex Hospital, Agnes Brenda Yule, MA, Oxon. Founder of the Koan Trust. Beloved wife of the late Geoffrey Hubert Fairweather. Will be greatly missed by who all passed through her door. Funeral at Greatness Park Cemetery Chapel, Seal Road, Sevenoaks, 12.30 pm Friday 27th January. No flowers but donations to The Last Chance Animal Rescue, Stickhill, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5NH or any other animal charity.

HARROD - On Wednesday January 18th 1995, at home after a courageous fight against cancer, Major General Lionel Alexander Digby Harrod CBE, late Royal Regiment of Wales. Devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, most dearly loved. Funeral at St Gregory's Church, Marnhull, Dorset, at 2 pm on Friday January 27th 1995 followed by private burial. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Leagte of Remembrance, 55 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3HZ. A Memorial Service will be held later in Llandaff Cathedral.

HOPKINS - Suddenly, Christine, dearly loved daughter of John and Jacqueline, dear sister of David and Claire. Service and cremation to be held on Monday 23rd January 1995 at 10 am in St Bede's Chapel, Teesside Crematorium. No flowers by request. Donations, if so desired, to the N.S.P.C.C.

KAGAN - Joseph, Lord Kagan of Elland, peacefully on 18th January. Dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Service at Golders Green Crematorium at 10 am Sunday 22nd January. No flowers please.

LOOKER - On January 13th 1995, David John, beloved husband of Arlene and much loved father of Anthony.

McCLINTOCK - Suddenly at home in Upton-upon-Severn on January 17th, Peter F. A dearly loved husband, father and granda. Memorial Service at Upton-upon-Severn Parish Church on Monday January 23rd at 2pm. No flowers please but donations for The British Heart Foundation may be sent to Malcolm J. Presland Funeral Directors, 19 High Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcs.

McDONALD - On January 16th, Alistair Ian CBE, much loved husband of Olwen, father to Alison and granddaughter to Michael and Andrew. Family flowers only. Donations to Great Ormond St. Hospital. Funeral to be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Horsham, on Tuesday 24th January at 2 pm. Enquiries to Freemans of Horsham, tel: (0403) 254590.

McMULLEN - Ida Wilhelmina (Willie), née Taylor, in her 91st year, on 18th January 1995 peacefully in hospital following a short illness. Dearly loved by her late husband Col. Denis McMullen CBE; her children Morrice, Terrence, Susan and Ronald (now Normand) and grandchildren Mark, Johnny, Rachel, Deborah, Barnabas, Paul and Sarah. Funeral on 28th January at St Peter's, Woolhampton at 3pm. Family flowers only please, and donations (if desired) to The Avon Disabled Living Centre, c/o A.B. Walker & Son Ltd., 36 Eldon Road, Reading (01734 573650).

PARRY - On January 17th 1995, at Ormskirk Hospital, in his 68th year, Eric Parry C.B.E. CSU M.D. ChB F.R.C.S. F.R.C.S.Ed. peacefully. Thanksgiving Service at St Thomas' Church, Lydiate, on Tuesday January 24th at 2.15 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to (The Eric Parry Memorial Fund University of Liverpool), Dept. of Anatomy, University of Liverpool, L69 3BX. Further enquiries to Thompsons Funeral Services, tel: (051) 526-1815.

SABEN - Joyce Margaret, beloved wife of the late Derek Russell Saben, much loved mum of Margaret and Janet, dear mother-in-law of Chris and a loving grannie to Timothy and Joseph, passed peacefully away on Monday 16th January 1995. Enquiries to A. Paynter & Son Funeral Directors, City Mews, Lamb Street, Coventry. (0203) 223543.

SMITH - Dr. The Honourable Hester Vivian Smith OBE, on 18th January, peacefully at home, aged 86, surrounded by family and friends. Service at the Parish Church, Yarpole, near Leominster, Herefordshire, at 12 noon on Tuesday 24th January. Funeral Directors R.W. Mann & Son, 61 West Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.

TIPPETTS - On January 17th 1995, aged 75, Cmdr. Brian Thomas Tippetts R.N. retd., of Hinton Charterhouse, Bath. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Hinton Charterhouse, on Monday January 23rd at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations in lieu for St John's Church.

VENTERS - On January 18th, Peter, beloved husband of Elizabeth. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Marlborough, on Wednesday January 25th at 2 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ANDERSON - A Memorial Service for Professor Sir Norman Anderson will be held in All Souls Church, Langham Place, W1 (next to Broadcasting House) on Tuesday February 28th at 1pm.

BROOKE-NICOL - A Memorial Service for Brookie (Irving) will be held at St Mary and All Saints Church, Dunsfold, Surrey, at 11.30 am on Monday 30th January. All friends are welcome. Donations in his memory, if desired, should be sent to The L Brooke-Nicol Fund, Imperial Cancer Research, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

JONES - Michael D.L. Remembering with all our love our dearest son, brother and friend. Mother, Father, Huw, John.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

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OBITUARIES

VISCOUNT COWDRAY

Lord Cowdray, president of the Pearson Group, died in hospital in Midhurst, West Sussex, yesterday aged 84. He was born on February 27, 1910.

LORD COWDRAY endured the unenviable reputation of being, next to the Duke of Westminster, the richest peer and one of the richest men in Britain. More important, the business empire, of which he was the head for more than twenty years, stretched into astonishingly diverse and powerful areas of the economy. It is a wry commentary that, during a period when the interest in business journalism and the preoccupation with money and economic affairs were so very marked, Lord Cowdray should have remained to most people merely a shadowy figure and a somewhat awesome name.

Cowdray was from 1954 to 1977 the chairman of S. Pearson and Son (now the Pearson Group), a business conglomerate whose origins — along with the Pearson family fortune — can be traced back to the Yorkshire builder and financier, Weetman Pearson, a romantic figure, notable for his ambitious and vigorous engineering and financial enterprises in the last quarter of the 19th century. Weetman Pearson, the 1st Viscount Cowdray, built his company into the world's leading contracting business. Early this century he also founded the Mexican Eagle Oil (subsequently sold to Shell), and helped to establish the present shape of the Pearson Group by buying an interest in the investment bankers, Lazard Brothers, and forming a syndicate to purchase the *Westminster Gazette* newspaper.

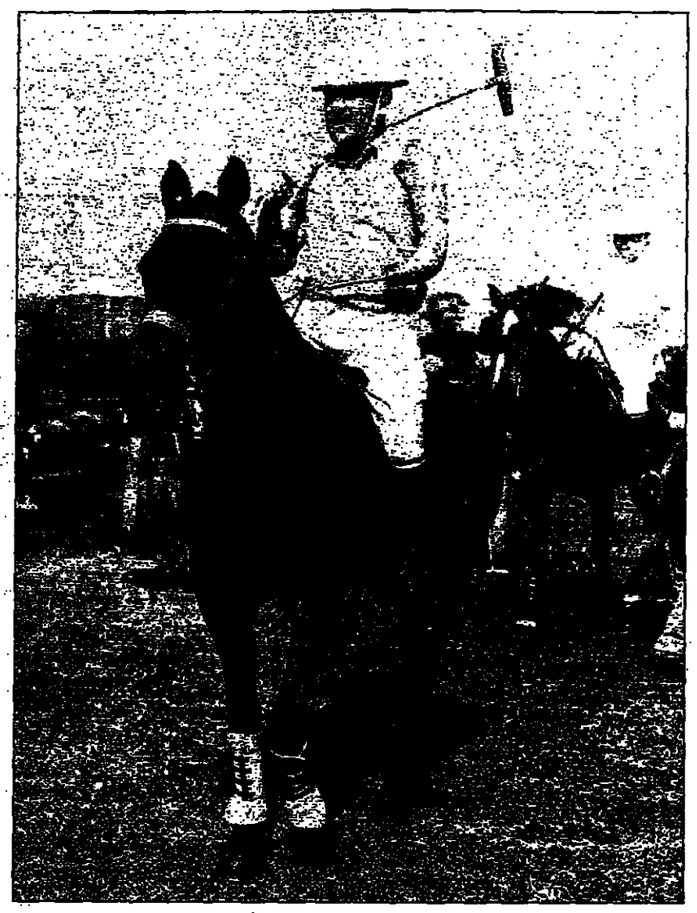
Under Lord Cowdray, the 3rd Viscount, who succeeded his father in 1933, the Pearson Group expanded to become one of the country's largest publishing and newspaper concerns. Today it controls, among other interests, the *Financial Times* (linked in turn to *The Economist* and the *Investors Chronicle*), Penguin Books, Viking, Longman, the Westminster Press, the Tussaud Group, Thames



Lord Cowdray and, right, at Cowdray Park, 1952

Television and a large number of provincial newspapers and printing concerns; it also holds a 50 per cent stake in Lazard Brothers.

Under Cowdray's leadership, the most interesting aspect of the Pearson Group was a shrewdly planned rationalisation and extension of its wide-ranging business interests. Most public attention, probably rightly, concentrated on its management of the affairs of the *Financial Times*, control of which was bought (through the Financial News) in 1957. On



foundations laid by Lords Bracken and Drogheda, together with a talented management and editorial team, the *Financial Times* grew in circulation between 1950 and 1972 from about 59,000 to 172,500; its daily sale today is nearly 300,000.

The emphasis of the group under the 3rd Lord Cowdray was very much on the carefully calculated acquisition of profitable enterprises and skilled management. His corporate strategy was based upon concentration on fields where the group had acquired particular expertise, shedding interests in the process of consolidation and then seeking profitable enterprises linked to its main activities. A measure of its success can be seen from the figures revealed when, in 1969, S. Pearson and Son decided to offer shares to the public, chiefly because of the menace of eventual substantial death duties. The group was capitalised on flotation at about £80 million, constituting the biggest equity flotation on the British market until then and taking it into the ranks of the 75 largest British quoted companies. In 1970, its first full year as a public company, the group's total pre-tax profits were £13.8 million. In 1954, the first full year of Cowdray's chairmanship, they had been just £830,000.

Remote from the public eye, Cowdray impressed his business contemporaries by his skill in choosing management, particularly the select group of senior executives and family relations who to some extent shared his personal reticence and his notable determination to run the group on principles of thorough delegation and devolution. Despite this structure, Cowdray consistently maintained at main board level a close personal interest in the complex affairs of the group as a whole.

Weetman John Churchill Pearson, the son of the 2nd Viscount Cowdray and of Agnes Beryl, the daughter of Lord Edward Spencer Churchill, was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. In the Lords he was parliamentary private secretary to the Under-Secretary of State for Air, 1941-42. Although he lost an arm at Dunkirk he for years proudly listed his leisure pursuits as shooting, fishing, hunting and polo, which he continued to play with the aid of an artificial arm into the 1960s, thereafter limiting his activities on the field to umpiring. In truth, he was largely responsible for the somewhat surprising revival of British polo in the post-imperial era.

His father, who was chairman of the Hurlingham Polo Association until his death, had laid out the now famous Lawns and River grounds at his home, Cowdray Park, Midhurst in West Sussex, and his son — more than reflecting his parent's enthusiasm for the game — rose to a handicap of four by 1939. Ten years later he was still to be seen captaining the Cowdray Park team, completed by three of his dedicated polo-playing sisters.

When polo was moribund in England in the late 1940s Cowdray got a number of three-a-side teams into action. The Argentine pundits saw some of them playing at Cowdray Park and promptly invited Cowdray to select and take a team to Buenos Aires. The squad went on to Chile, where it was convincingly victorious. Thanks almost entirely to Cowdray's own zeal, more than 12,000 people turned out to watch in 1953 the revived international matches for the Coronation Cup. The Duke of Edinburgh was a regular member of Lord Cowdray's team in the 1950s. Following in his father's footsteps, Cowdray himself was chairman of the Hurlingham Polo Association, the game's governing body, for 20 years from 1947 to 1967.

Right up to the time of his death, Lord Cowdray kept a sustained interest in the affairs of the Pearson Group — now run by his nephew, Lord Blakenham. In this sense, the continuing family link sheltered him from publicity, which he dreaded. He rejoiced in the reputation of being a man who never gave interviews.

He married in 1939 Lady Anne Bridgeman, daughter of the 5th Earl of Bradford. This marriage ended in divorce in 1950. He married, secondly in 1953, Elizabeth Georgiana Mather, daughter of Sir Anthony Mather-Jackson, Bt. He had one son and two daughters by his first marriage and a son and two daughters by his second. His wife and all his children survive him. The son by his first marriage, Michael Pearson, inherits the viscountcy.



ERIC STADLEN

Eric Stadlen, a pioneer of broadcast journalism, died on January 10 aged 77. He was born on April 18, 1917.

ERIC STADLEN was one of the earliest producers of *Radio Newsreel*. He was also instructor and mentor to many now well-known broadcasters. One of several refugees from the Nazis who joined the BBC during the war, he helped to initiate some key developments and was the chief producer in the first experiment which led to the broadcasting of Parliament.

Born in Vienna of Jewish parents, he studied ethnology and language at Vienna University. As a boy he was an active member of a nationalist paramilitary group dedicated to opposing the unification of Austria with Nazi Germany.

Chance found him in London in 1938 at the time of the Anschluss when he had come to visit his brother. He then joined with his brother in getting his family out of Vienna and enrolled in a Quaker group dedicated to rescuing refugees from Nazi persecution.

Through a fortuitous encounter in 1939, he was hired by the author and critic Harold Nicolson to do occasional translating and writing for him. He then, again through Nicolson, became involved in counter-propaganda at the Ministry of Information then headed by Alfred Duff Cooper.

It was in 1942 that he began his long career with the BBC. For 26 years he was a key figure in the news features department, fulfilling at different times the roles of scriptwriter, producer and editor. He was the last executive editor of the department before it was replaced by current affairs. As well as *Radio Newsreel* he was in charge of many special projects, including the coverage of general elections, state funerals and weddings.

In 1969 he changed direction and became dedicated to the task of bringing on new journalistic talent in the BBC by becoming an instructor, and co-founder, of the Corporation's journalist training scheme. It was a happy time for him; teaching combined his love of language (as a young man he had written in German) and his affinity with young people.

Among those he trained are Jeremy Paxman, Nicholas Witchell, Brian Hanrahan, Tony Hall (Director of News and Current Affairs at the BBC) and Peter Stothard (Editor of *The Times*).

After he retired from the BBC in 1977, he went to New Zealand to reorganise the commercial network and local news output of Radio New Zealand. He then joined the City University as a lecturer in the postgraduate diploma course on radio journalism.

Eric Stadlen was a cultured man of wide and varied interests. He was a first-class bridge player, often playing into the small hours, especially in Belfast where sometimes his gambling losses, and very occasionally his winnings, were the talk of the Europa Hotel.

He was a striking-looking, stocky man with a fine baritone voice. He had a strong religious faith which took him through the Oxford Group and finally to the Christian Community, a small High Church fellowship based in Hammersmith, to whose magazine he became a regular contributor.

Eric Stadlen married Pamela Jones in 1973. The marriage was dissolved last year. He is survived by their three sons.

MICHAEL WRIGLEY

Michael Wrigley, OBE, former intelligence officer, racehorse owner and breeder, died on January 13 aged 70. He was born on July 30, 1924.

A MAN of strong likes and dislikes, Michael Wrigley was capable of inspiring admiration and loyalty, amounting almost to hero-worship, among his contemporaries and his juniors; but he was equally capable of provoking the reverse. To his colleagues in the Secret Intelligence Service it sometimes seemed that Wrigley would have been more at home in an earlier epoch — as the landlord of his inherited acres in Yorkshire rather than as a member of a structured and disciplined Service. But he was a notable figure in the Service and certainly its leading expert on Thailand in which he accomplished three tours of duty (1956-59, 1961-64 and 1964-71).

Michael Harold Wrigley was educated at Harrow and Worcester College, Oxford, where he was a cricket Blue. Cricket and, to an even greater extent, racing were to remain consuming interests throughout his life. His wartime service was in the Rifle Brigade, with whom he served, from 1943 to 1947. For the last few months of his military service he was employed at Security Intelligence Middle East where he came to know Maurice Oldfield. The latter became a lifelong friend and godfather to one of his daughters. It was Oldfield who introduced Wrigley to SIS in 1950; and he remained with the Service until his retirement in 1976.

It was as a specialist on Thailand, and on South-East Asia generally, that Wrigley made his professional reputation. His service overseas was confined to that area, including Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, apart from an early posting to Brussels. He came to know a great deal about South-East Asia, particularly Thailand, and he developed close and sympathetic relations with many of his professional colleagues: he was greatly respected and liked in Thailand.

Within his own Service, he was not always an easy colleague. He had a strong conviction of the rightness of his own judgment and little patience with orthodox channels for advancing projects in which he believed. For his work in SIS he was appointed OBE in 1971.

Upon his retirement, racing became his prime preoccupation. On the Turf he symbolised the sterling contribution that the North of England often makes to the administration of racing. His green and red hooped colours were justly popular both in Yorkshire and also on the Scottish circuits. He was a steward at no fewer than four Yorkshire courses: Beverley, Pontefract, Redcar and York. In 1983 he was elected to the Jockey Club, serving on its disciplinary committee between 1985 and 1987, then on the first disciplinary review committee in 1991 and 1992.

He had several trainers, all in Yorkshire: the late "Rufus" Beasley, "Mick" Easterby and Jimmy Etherington, and their successes for him were mostly with horses he himself had produced at his Ganton Hall stud, near Scarborough.

Wrigley owned the unraced brood mare Love Seat, who produced winners for him in the sprinter Resin who took the Ailsa Craig Handicap at Ayr in 1976, as well as the fillies Bernardine and Flitterdale. Flitterdale, in turn, foaled for him another successful sprinter in Vanishing Trick as well as Joveworth who triumphed at 50-1 in the 1989 Ayr Gold Cup, although not carrying Wrigley's racing silks.

Yet another good horse he bred (out of Love Seat) — but did not subsequently own — was Boutzdaroff, who had eight victories including the 1993 Martell Aintree Chase.

Racing apart, Wrigley was a sportsman with forthright views laced with dry wit, not least on Yorkshire cricket. The old-style perfection of his shooting parties at Ganton Hall was renowned. He was a large man: a formidable physical presence. He was a person to whom it was difficult to be indifferent.

He leaves a widow, Phillida, two daughters and two sons.



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in association with Parfums Cacharel

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All messages with gift must be received no later than Wednesday 8th February 1995. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement at our discretion.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS

(From Our Special Correspondent)

HEADQUARTERS, CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA'S ARMY, VERSAILLES, JAN 14.

... At 2 o'clock a.m. a company of the [Bavarian] regiment made an *ausstoss* with the bayonet, before which the French flitted away into their trenches. There was much loss of ammunition, and not much of life, as the casualties in the 15th Regiment do not exceed 12 men killed and wounded. There was a similar sortie nearer to us in front of Meudon, in pursuance of a reconnaissance against the Prussian works. If the French wanted full information as to the position and extent of these works they got it at the cost of some lives, but they did not do any damage or succeed in occupying any part of the trenches permanently. It is the opinion of some officers that the group of batteries on the plateaux over Sceaux, &c., is rather overdone, and that the concentration of so many works there draws a converging fire which is sure to hit something. Subject to remarks made in previous letters respecting the action of the rifled ordnance, it must be admitted that these sharp-fronted projectiles do great execution in gabionnades and earthworks. The practice made by some guns is admirable — too good to be at all pleasant. There is a garden wall at a hot little residence in which some friends of mine are stationed, which has three holes in it, big enough for a man to jump through, made by a gun at either Issy, which is 4,800 yards away, or at Point du Jour, which is 6,660 yards distant. They must practise at the house by signals from Ville-juif, in order to annoy the columns of troops in the valley near at hand, or to interfere with the passage of the trains along the road at this point. There are several indications of this kind. It is now known that the German batteries can reach the Seine. A shell, intended probably for the Hôtel de Ville, has dropped on or near to Pont St Michel, by the Island de la Cité, and there is a story in the papers from Paris that another projectile has committed execution in a girls' seminary, where several pupils were killed. Pont St Michel is upwards of 10,000 schritt, of 30 inches each, from the battery. To a distant observer from one of the batteries Paris does not seem much injured, but a face destroyed by pock-marks does not reveal its ugliness a long way off. As yet there is no symptom that the Council of Generals has made any modifications in the defence. To-day there was unusual silence in the afternoon. Something was observed to be on fire in the Crown Prince Redoubt, over by Ville d'Avray, but I could not ascertain if it was caused by a French shell or by accident inside. There is still smoke rising at times from Fort Issy. Some of the fires in the suburbs may be caused by the French clearing away useless houses to open the front of the *enceinte*. French shells set fire to houses in Chatillon and Clamart on the 13th, but they were extinguished without difficulty. That night bells were heard ringing in the city in all the churches, and a great movement of carts and of trains on the railroad, which has not ceased running, was heard. At 10 o'clock the sound of a heavy cannonade, musketry, and mitrailleuses came from the north and north-east, as if the French had made a sortie. This coincided with the sortie in Olamart. The weather is still most bitter, and at night there is a dense fog.

ON THIS DAY

January 20 1871

The siege of Paris in the Franco-Prussian War began in September 1870 and lasted until January 28, 1871. In March, the Germans entered the city, remaining there for 48 hours

صكنا من الاهل

THE TIMES TODAY FRIDAY JANUARY 20 1995

NEWS

Pay rise 'will cut teaching jobs'

■ Thousands of teaching posts will disappear and class sizes will "shoot up" if teachers receive their expected pay rise, Gillian Shephard warned Cabinet colleagues in a leaked letter.

The Education Secretary's comments, made in the run-up to last November's public spending settlement, succeeded in wringing another £133 million from the Treasury for education. But the 1.1 per cent increase is well below the inflation rate and falls far short of the money needed to fund the pay rise she considered necessary Page 1

Russian troops capture Grozny palace

■ Russian troops captured the Presidential Palace in the centre of Grozny and the Chechen Government admitted that its forces had abandoned the building after it was reduced to rubble by bombing Pages I, II, 19

Girl's body found

The partially-clothed body of a 15-year-old girl was found in woods near a housing estate on the outskirts of Cardiff after she went missing while walking to school Page 1

£1.5bn drugs haul

Illegal drugs worth £1.5 billion were seized or blocked from reaching Britain's streets last year by Customs operations against traffickers Page 6

Peace signals

The Government sent out fresh peace signals to its Euro-rebels in spite of their latest rebellion on fishing and the publication of a policy agenda Pages 1, 9, 19

Incitement inquiry

The farmer organising livestock exports from the Essex port of Brightlingsea is under investigation for alleged incitement after a fourth day of ugly confrontations in the town Page 5

Aftershock in Kobe

"In the warm refuge of Kobe City Hall hundreds of people, wrapped in blankets, sleep or stare into space." Peregrine Hodson reports Page 1

Britons kidnapped

Five Britons working for a Swiss-owned mining company in Sierra Leone have been kidnapped by armed rebels, the firm has said Page 10

Scrutiny of MPs

An independent authority with wide-ranging powers to regulate MPs' financial affairs has been proposed by Lord Nolan's inquiry into standards of public life Page 2

Nuns' silent protest

More than 200 Australian nuns staged a silent protest against the Pope's refusal to countenance the ordination of women to the priesthood Page 10

Mother arrested

The mother of Rikki Neave, the six-year-old boy found naked and strangled close to his home last November, has has been arrested by police investigating his murder Page 3

Delors farewell

Europe should haul itself out of its pessimism and go forward to monetary union and joint defence policies, M Jacques Delors told the European Parliament in a farewell speech Page 11

Car-free zones

Car-free zones will soon be declared in cities, under a programme to improve air quality announced by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary Page 7

Turkish hunt

Turkish and American troops are searching for a US Air Force officer and his ten-year-old son who were reported missing after a trip to Kartalkaya resort, 70 miles west of Ankara Page 11

Jimmy Carter, statesman and poet

■ Jimmy Carter, the former US President who has lately turned to international peace-keeping, has found yet another role — that of poet. A volume containing 44 of his poems, many dealing with growing up in rural Georgia, has just been published. "The book expresses a lot about me that I couldn't say otherwise," Mr Carter said Page 10

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Pedestrians struggle against stormy weather in The Strand, London, yesterday as gales and rain swept across the country

BUSINESS

Rise likely: Buoyant retail sales in December coupled with this week's inflation figures make a rise in bank base rates next month or in March more likely. Sales rose by 0.5 per cent Page 23

Mortgage increase: The Halifax announced that it is to increase its mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent for existing borrowers in February. The increase to 8.35 per cent is in response to last month's increase in bank base rate to 6.25 per cent. Nationwide followed with an increase to 8.44 per cent Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index closed 26.3 down at 3028.6. Sterling increased 0.2 to $1.5719 but lost 0.5 pfennigs to DM 2.398. The trade weighted index fell 0.1 to 79.5 Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Three New Zealand players have been dropped for a three-match one-day series against West Indies after using cannabis during the recent tour of South Africa Page 44

Golf: Greg Norman had a first-round 64 to lead the field in the Dubai Desert Classic by one stroke from Fred Couples and two from Nick Price Page 42

Rugby union: Wayne Proctor withdrew from the Welsh team to play France because of a chest infection. He is replaced by Simon Hill, who wins his seventh cap Page 44

Tennis: Jeremy Bates lost 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 to Patrick McEnroe in the second round of the Australian Open in Melbourne Page 44

ARTS

Designer-chic Mozart: The Royal Opera has staged Jonathan Miller's new production of *Così fan tutte*, with costumes by the Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani Page 35

Back on stage: The actress Phyllida Law, mother of Emma Thompson, returns to the stage next week after a five-year absence Page 35

Man's woman: Jacqueline Goddard, the model for some of Man Ray's most celebrated photographs, is in London for a Ray retrospective Page 36

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on the Black Crowes, Atlanta's hottest rock act; new albums reviewed; and Caitlin Moran profiles the group Sleeper Page 37

FEATURES

Ruth Runciman: "I didn't want to work except in the most humble and voluntary way." The new chairwoman of the Mental Health Act Commission talks to Valerie Grove Page 16

Prehistoric paintings: Norman Hammond interprets the animal paintings discovered at Grotte Chauvet Page 17

Double helping: Libby Purves wonders why unfaithful men so often dally with women similar to their regular partners Page 17

INFOTECH

Sound advisers: Teachers in the US have installed voice mail to provide up-to-date information to parents Page 31



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ GOOD COMPANY
Up to 20 per cent off nights at the opera for 1995's top productions, in the Magazine

■ WILD LIFE
Win a ten-day trip for two to the Amazon rainforests, in Weekend

THE PAPERS

The European Parliament has emerged from the process of ratifying the European Commission with its reputation considerably enhanced. Perhaps the greatest weakness of EU has, until now, been the lack of a credible democratic institution —*The European*

The Clinton Administration faces surprising and short-sighted opposition in Congress to its bold plan to rescue the Mexican peso. Critics, both Democrat and Republican, say the plan will leave American taxpayers dangerously exposed if Mexico defaults on its bonds —*The New York Times*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A respectable suburban garden yields a gruesome secret in Jonathan Lewis's drama, *The Plant* (BBC1, 9.30pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss enjoys Jeremy Clarkson's sceptical look at Detroit, the car capital turned murder capital Page 43

OPINION

Rebels in error

The practical effects of yesterday's manifesto on European debate are unlikely to be constructive, either for Britain or for the Tory party, whose interests the rebels still claim to have at heart Page 19

Despite Chechenia

Western statesmen may wish to use their personal friendship to warn Mr Yeltsin of a foreign backlash. But it is not the time to abandon him Page 19

Normal service

It is deeply regrettable that Radio 4's *Morning Service* should now be regarded as an optional feature rather than a fixture Page 19

BERNARD LEVIN

Advertising is a pseudo-science, and anybody with a bit of imagination and intelligence could succeed in it. I once tried my hand at it, many years ago, with enormous success, and would have wiped out the entire clan Saatchi if I had continued Page 18

DENIS MacSHANE

The reputation of Chatham House is to be put to the test by its extraordinary decision to provide a platform for the rising star of Europe's reborn Fascist movement, Gianfranco Fini, leader of the Italian extreme Right Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

The Tory Euro-rebels are trying to have the best of both worlds. They want to engage in the Tory Party debate over European policy and at the same time have the freedom to rebel Page 9

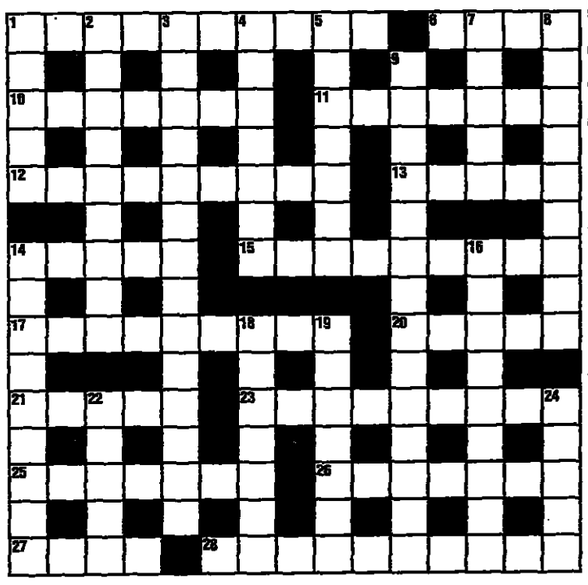
OBITUARIES

Lord Cowdray, president of the Pearson Group; **Eric Stadlen**, journalist; **Michael Wrigley**, former intelligence officer, racehorse owner and breeder Page 21

LETTERS

The West's inconsistency in foreign affairs; conserving listed buildings; live animal exports Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,757



ACROSS

1 Monsters return in book seen first in station (5,5).
6 Who handles insurgent parliamentarians in the first instance? (4).
10 Coming and competing after half race is over (7).
11 Straw packed around lake fish (7).
12 English politicians make speeches complicated (9).
13 Bulb lit up unexpectedly (5).
14 Catch glimpses while talking (5).
15 Send for trial without getting a thing in exchange (9).
17 Height above sea level of bare red fell (9).
20 Happy end to story without any middle (5).
21 Horses are said to eat grass (5).
23 Persuade canon to make a complete reversal (9).
25 Bill dislikes a friend. . .(7).
26 . . .showing resentment when lemon has gone bad (7).
27 Overcooked (4).
28 Report that would be more informative if I replaced Latvian (10).

DOWN

1 Jack, king, 2 - but no heart at all (5).
2 10's gone into local history (9).
3 Senators behave badly, say nothing (4,4,6).
4 Free as a bird around meadows (7).
5 A national issue (7).
7 Heated the Spanish parador (5).
8 One penny man invested in drink, at the outside (9).
9 A game to make the crossing shorter (8,6).
14 A fraud's arranged involving, say, security (9).
16 Heedless and shameless, that's about right (9).
18 Entertainer in comedy part is terrific (7).
19 Dresses made by Diana Stevenson seen all round the state (7).
22 White wood (5).
24 Benefactor's name displayed in entrance (5).

The solution to Qualifying Prize Puzzle No 19,756 will appear on Monday, January 30.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Somer's	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heref'ds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code.

London & M25 traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Bndn/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest temp: Guernsey 9C (48F); lowest: Ballypatrick Forest, Northern Ireland 2C (36F); rain: Shanklin, Isle of Wight 1.06in; sun: Skegness, Humberside 8.3hr.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.55 am	4.28 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
9.05 am	9.09 pm

Last quarter January 24

London 4.28 pm to 7.54 am
Bristol 4.38 pm to 8.04 am
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 8.27 am
Manchester 4.28 pm to 8.11 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 8.10 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** sunny spells and showers.

England and Wales will have clear or sunny spells and blustery showers, especially in the west and near the Channel coast.

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have clear or sunny spells and blustery showers, the showers wintry especially over hills. The far north will be cloudier for a time, with rain or snow, becoming showery later.

Temperatures near normal, but feeling cold in the blustery winds.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** clear or sunny spells, with a few showers. Wind southwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **SE, Central S, NW, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales:** clear or sunny intervals, but also blustery showers. Wind southwesterly, generally strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** clear or sunny intervals and blustery showers, the showers wintry, especially over hills. Wind southwesterly, fresh becoming strong. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain or snow at first. Brighter with wintry showers later. Wind mainly southwesterly, strong at first, moderating. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, but also brighter interludes. Remaining windy. Temperatures near normal.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Anglesey	3.1	0.19	7	45	h
Aspatria	4.1	0.05	6	43	f
Aviemore		0.70	2	36	sn
Belfast	4.6	0.04	8	37	sh
Birmingham	3.6	0.43	6	43	sl
Bognor R	3.1	0.65	7	45	r
Bournem'th	-	0.89	6	46	sh
Bristol	4.3	-	8	46	s
Buxton	1.5	0.32	2	36	sl
Cardiff	4.6	0.16	7	45	sh
Clacton	3.9	0.09	7	45	s
Colwyn Bay	0.8	0.11	6	43	sh
Cromer	4.9	0.08	8	46	s
Doncaster	4.7	0.07	6	43	b
Eastbourne	3.0	0.28	8	46	h
Edinburgh	4.8	0.21	5	41	sh
Eskdalemuir	2.7	0.09	4	33	h
Exmouth	3.1	0.06	7	45	c
Falmouth	X	0.69	7	45	b
Fishguard	3.6	0.21	6	43	sh
Folkestone	3.5	0.31	8	46	h
Glasgow	1.4	0.21	5	41	sn
Guernsey	3.1	0.83	9	48	fr
Hastings	3.5	0.41	9	48	h
Hove	0.4	0.39	10	50	r
Hunstanton	5.8	0.33	7	45	s
Isle of Man	-	-	7	45	b
Jersey	5.1	0.70	8	46	sh
Kinloss	0.1	0.09	5	41	sn
Leeds	4.8	0.10	6	43	b
Lerwick	-	0.24	7	45	h
Leuchars	3.9	0.24	5	41	h
Liverpool	1.8	0.05	5	41	b
London	1.8	0.33	7	45	b
Lowestoft	3.8	0.07	6	46	s
Manchester	2.6	0.13	5	41	s
Margate	-	0.16	9	48	sh
Minehead	4.9	0.11	7	45	s
Morecambe	0.9	0.10	5	41	r
Newquay	2.1	0.10	7	45	b
Nottingham	4.4	0.24	6	43	s
Oxford	4.3	0.08	7	45	s
Penzance	4.6	0.21	8	46	h
Plymouth	1.3	0.21	7	45	r
Poole	0.9	0.48	8	46	b
Scarboro'	5.1	0.06	5	41	s
Scilly Isles	2.5	0.13	7	45	h
Shanklin	0.8	1.06	8	46	h
Shrewsbury	2.5	0.04	5	41	s
Skegness	6.3	-	7	45	s
Southend	2.2	0.28	10	50	sh
Southport	0.9	0.02	5	41	sh
Stornoway	0.9	0.20	5	41	sh
Teignmouth	3.3	0.18	7	45	b
Tenby	3.2	0.13	8	46	c
Torquay	1.8	0.27	7	45	h
Tynemouth	1.9	0.11	5	41	s
Ventnor	1.1	0.71	8	48	r
Waymouth	0.7	0.39	8	46	b

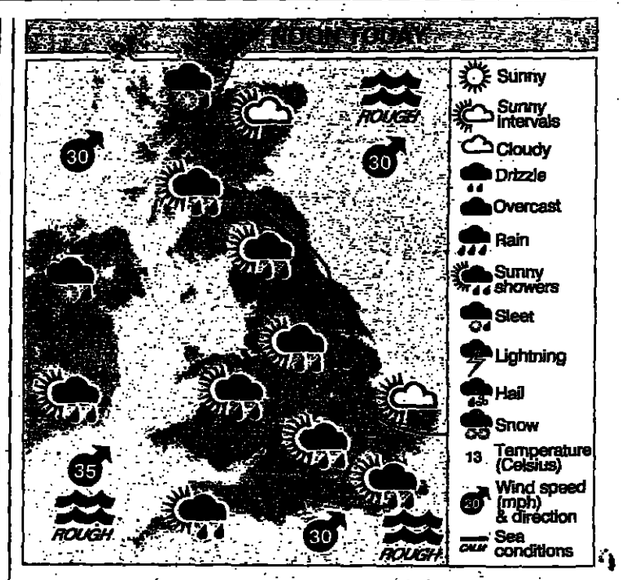
These are Wednesday's figures

ABROAD

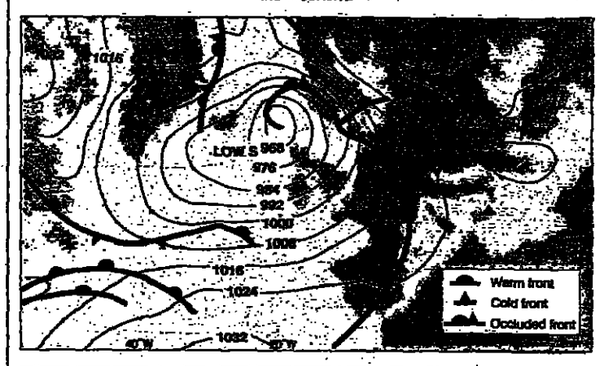
Alaccio	12	54	f	C'phagn	-2	28	sn	Majorca	15	59	s
Akrotiri	14	57	s	Corfu	10	50	f	Malaga	15	59	s
Alex'dria	16	61	f	Dublin	3	37	r	Malta	14	57	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	c	Melb'rne	25	77	s
Amst'dm	5	41	f	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	19	66	s
Athens	14	57	f	Florence	7	45	r	Miami	23	73	c
Bahrain	21	70	f	Frankfurt	3	37	c	Milan	1	34	f
Bangkok	32	90	s	Funchal	17	63	c	Montreal	1	34	f
Barbados	29	82	f	Genoa	7	45	s	Moscow	-13	9	s
Barcelona	12	54	s	Gibraltar	15	59	c	Munich	3	37	f
Beirut	13	55	f	Helsinki	-6	21	c	Nairobi	27	81	s
Belgrade	-2	28	f	Hong K	25	77	s	Naples	10	50	r
Berlin	-2	28	sn	Innsbruck	2	36	r	N Delhi	17	63	s
Bermuda	22	72	f	Istanbul	3	37	f	N York	6	43	c
Biarritz	12	54	f	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	13	55	s
Boole's	9	48	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	0	32	sn
Brussels	6	43	f	Karachi	23	73	s	Paris	6	43	c
Budapest	-6	21	sn	L Palmas	20	68	s	Pe touquet	6	41	f
B Aires	28	82	c	Lisbon	15	59	f	Peking	0	32	f
Cairo	18	61	f	Locarno	4	39	s	Perth	32	90	s
Cape Tn	28	82	s	L Angels	14	57	s	Reykjavik	0	32	c
Chicago	2	35	s	Luxemb'g	3	37	f	Rhodes	10	50	s
Ch'church	18	64	c	Luxor	18	66	s	Rio de J	25	82	f
Cologne	7	45	f	Madrid	6	43	f	Rome	14	57	f
Ryadh	26	79	s								
Salzburg	1	34	sl								
S F'risco	8	46	f								
Santiago	29	84	s								
S Paulo	32	81	r								
Seoul	-1	30	s								
Sing'por	28	73	r								
St'kholm	-1	30	sn								
Strasb'g	5	41	f								
Sydney	22	72	r								
Tangier	15	59	s								
Tel Aviv	13	55	c								
Tenerife	19	66	s								
Tokyo	7	45	s								
Toronto	2	36	c								
Tunis	15	59	f								
Valencia	13	55	f								
Vancouver	8	46	r								
Venice	5	41	r								
Vienna	-5	23	sn								
Warsaw	-8	21	s								
Wash'ton	8	46	d								
Wel'ngton	19	66	c								
Zurich	5	41	s								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

AROUND TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: deep low pressure will persist near northern Britain, as low S is joined by new lows racing in from the Atlantic over the weekend



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:46	8.92	4:16	7.03	Leith	4:48	5.34	4:54	5.36
Aberdeen	3:24	4.16	3:30	4.32	Liverpool	1:05	9.17	1:19	9.26
Avonmouth	9:13	13.10	9:36	12.89	Lowestoft	11:44	2.29	11:40	2.58
Belfast	0:45	3.20	1:03	3.58	Margate	1:42	4.88	2:07	4.50
Cardiff	8:56	11.71	9:18	11.35	Milford Haven	8:13	6.77	8:34	6.65
Devonport	7:55	5.35	8:15	5.10	Newquay	7:02	6.77	7:22	6.58
Dover	0:50	6.61	1:02	6.46	Oban	7:35	3.95	7:57	3.76
Dublin	1:21	3.66	1:42	4.06	Penzance	6:40	5.53	7:00	5.29
Falmouth	6:56	5.12	7:13	4.85	Portland	6:48	2.03	9:08	1.85
Glasgow	3:00	4.32	3:09	4.51	Portsmouth	1:10	4.68	1:20	4.56
Harwich	1:38	3.92	2:02	3.90	Shoreham	0:57	6.16	1:09	6.14
Holyhead	0:08	5.29	0:22	5.51	Southampton	0:32	4.49	0:47	4.54
Hull	8:19	7.24	8:30	7.54	Swansea	8:25	9.23	8:45	9.09
Ilfracombe	8:00	9.14	8:21	8.95	Tees	5:49	5.07	5:59	5.26
King's Lynn	8:12	6.57	8:30	6.79	Wilton-on-Nze	1:29	4.25	1:55	4.24

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23



INFOTECH 31-34

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ARTS 35-37

Portrait of the woman Man Ray pictured



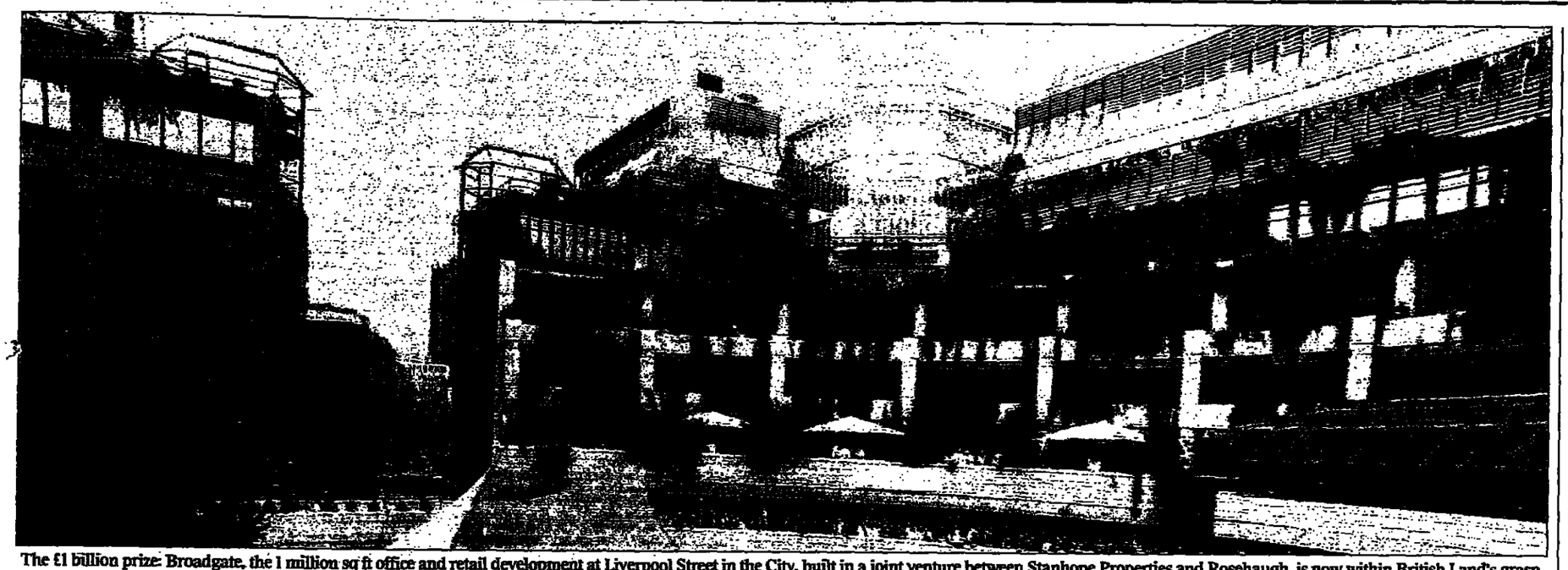
SPORT 38-44

Bates wilts in the heat of battle

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — FRIDAY JANUARY 20 1995



The £1 billion prize: Broadgate, the 1 million sq ft office and retail development at Liverpool Street in the City, built in a joint venture between Stanhope Properties and Rosehaugh, is now within British Land's grasp

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3028.6	(–26.3)
Yield	4.26%	
FT-SE A All share	1503.00	(–10.85)
Nikkei	19075.74	(–147.57)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3901.39	(–27.59)*
S&P Composite	467.73	(–1.98)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5%)
Long Bond	96 30/32*	(96 12/32)
Yield	7.80%*	(7.78%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6 5/16%	(6 11/32%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	101 2/32	(101 3/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5755*	(1.5693)
London:		
$	1.5755	(1.5701)
DM	2.3987	(2.4027)
FFr	8.3080	(8.3010)
SFr	2.0212	(2.0240)
Yen	156.69	(156.23)
£ Index	79.5	(79.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5220*	(1.5343)
FFr	5.2735*	(5.3025)
SFr	1.2815*	(1.2914)
Yen	99.45*	(99.62)
$ Index	82.9	(82.9)

Tokyo close Yen 99.78

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) $16.65 ($16.75)

GOLD

London close $382.75 ($383.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Higher rates take a step nearer

BY JANET BUSH

BUOYANT Christmas spending on the high street coupled with figures showing higher inflation in industry and retailing yesterday shortened the odds on a further rise in base rates during the next two months.

Retail sales rose 0.5 per cent in December, having been flat in October and November, says the Central Statistical Office. December's rise pushed annual growth in retail sales up to 3.8 per cent, against 2.6 per cent in November.

The City had been expecting a more modest rise in sales volumes in December, of 0.3 per cent. Taking yesterday's figures with the unexpected jump in retail price inflation last month and this week's figures showing slightly disappointing rises in factory gate prices, economists were convinced that the case for a base rate rise before the end of March is much stronger.

The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England next meet to discuss interest rates on February 2 and many in the City are expecting another move in rates. Key to these expectations will be next week's preliminary figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product. If these show that growth has been holding up near to the recent 4 per cent quarterly levels, speculation of higher rates is likely to intensify.

Some economists said that the trend in sales volumes remains sluggish in spite of December's figures and suggested that the authorities may decide to wait until their March meeting, and for January's prices and sales figures, given that December is a volatile statistical month. Sales in the last three months of last year were up only 0.5 per cent compared with the previous three months. Average quarter-on-quarter gains in 1993 were 1.4 per cent, says Salomon Brothers.

However, other economists said that the acute price sensitivity of consumers that has underpinned the spectacular inflation performance seen during the recovery may have started to wane. Sales volumes put in a healthy rise in spite of higher prices.

Kevin Darlington, of Hoare Govett, said: "This week's RPI figures suggested that the period of heavy discounting on the high street may have come to an end. The sales figures imply that consumers may be willing to spend their money even without the lure of such price cuts."

Sales of household goods rose 1.8 per cent in the three months to December compared with the previous three months. Gains in sales were across the board except for other "non-food" outlets. Smaller stores are finding it difficult to compete on price.

Richard Brown, Deputy Director-General of the British Chambers of Commerce, welcomed the overall sales figures: "Much of this improvement has occurred through fierce discounting, price cuts and aggressive selling." Interest free credit, an effective price cut, is not reflected in the retail prices index, which may, therefore, be overstating inflation.

GROUP of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors are to meet in Toronto on February 3 and 4 and are likely to discuss recent turbulence in the financial markets following the collapse of the Mexican peso. Paul Martin, Canadian Finance Minister, said that the G7 would review global economic conditions, but he gave no details. There have been rumours that a G7 meeting was to be convened for the past two weeks as bond and currency markets have been hard hit by turbulence.

Christmas late, page 27

Rivals of Halifax leave rates alone

BY ANNE ASHWORTH
PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

LENDERS have drawn battle lines in the fight for mortgage market share. The Abbey National and the Cheltenham & Gloucester yesterday announced that they have no current plans to follow the Halifax, which has raised its loan rate 0.25 per cent, to 8.35 per cent for new borrowers and will do so for existing customers from February 1.

Only two leading societies have raised their rates. The Nationwide is moving to 8.44 per cent, an increase of 0.30 per cent; the National & Provincial to 8.45 per cent, a rise of 0.36 per cent.

Others are hanging fire, while the Woolwich is expected to make an announcement today.

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said there was no reason to raise its rate "at the present time". The society will review the position if there are further base rate rises. The Abbey said that it was reluctant to raise rates but was keeping a close watch, bearing in mind the interests of its 10 million savers.

The Halifax's decision to limit the increase puts the society on a very competitive footing with smaller societies who have been jostling for share in a sluggish market. Those smaller lenders who adjusted their rates in the wake of December's 0.50 per cent base rate rise to 6.25 per cent chose to move their mortgage rates to about 8.50 per cent. The Northern Rock opted for 8.54 per cent.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "By limiting the increase to 0.25 per cent, we hope to minimise the impact on our borrowers and the housing market generally." But the society believes further rises are inevitable and has forecast a rate of 9 per cent by Christmas.

The Halifax has 1.86 million borrowers, whose consent will be required for the merger.

Home Loans battle, page 25

British Land buys Stanhope Properties

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH LAND has emerged victorious in the first stage of its battle to acquire the £1 billion Broadgate Properties, with a recommended takeover of Stanhope Properties, owner of a half share in the prestigious City development.

It is offering 3p a share for the remainder of Stanhope, worth £3.5 million, while the Stanhope banking syndicate, owed £148 million, has agreed to accept £122 million, or 82.4p in the pound, in repayment.

Stanhope shareholders are being offered an alternative of 2.7p in British Land shares. British Land intends to finance the takeover with a share issue. Brokers were speculating that British Land would launch a £125 million convertible issue prior to March 31, the deadline to repay Stanhope's bankers.

John Ritblat, British Land's chairman, said friendly discussions had taken place with KPMG Peat Marwick, the receiver of Rosehaugh, which controls the other half of Broadgate Properties. The Broadgate and Ludgate developments are financed with a £770 million loan and analysts think British Land's gearing could soar to 145 per cent if it took over Rosehaugh's stake.

The deal ends a 3-year fight by Stanhope and its advisers to keep the heavily indebted company afloat and spells defeat for PosTel and Alastair Ross Goobey, its chief. The post office pension fund launched a rival Broadgate bid after British Land had gained 29 per cent of Stanhope.

PosTel was ultimately defeated by the tortuous joint venture agreement put in place by Godfrey Bradman, former boss of Rosehaugh. PosTel's offer of up to £120 million for the Rosehaugh stake was recommended by the receiver to the Rosehaugh banking syndicate. However, pre-emption rights under the joint venture prevented PosTel from doing a deal without securing control of Stanhope at the same time, where British Land blocked the way.

British Land intends to defray the cost of its bid for Stanhope by selling assets including Stanhope Interiors, a lease on Watling House and a half share in Chiswick Park, a development site. Mr Ritblat expects disposals could cut the cost of the takeover to about £110 million. Stanhope's advisers, including Schroders and Lazards, the merchant banks, have been forced to take a fee cut to ensure the British Land offer went through. It is believed total fees paid to Stanhope's advisers were less than £3 million.

Stuart Lipton, chief executive of Stanhope and the entrepreneur behind the Broadgate project, said the takeover was in the end the only solution. "We fought very hard to get the banks the best deal. Obviously we would have rather have finished it ourselves."

Pennington, page 25
City Diary, page 27

NHL faces battle

National Home Loans, the mortgage lending group, is facing a battle with some of its preference shareholders who are demanding better terms in the company's financial reorganisation.

Report, 25: Tempus 26

Damages sought

A legal action claiming damages of £375 million from Swiss Bank Corporation, Ernst & Young and Bacon & Woodrow begins in the High Court on Monday. The case centres on the takeover by a Dutch reinsurer of Victory Reinsurance from Legal & General in 1990. The three firms advised the Dutch company.

Page 24

Saatchi issues $50m writ

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, the strife-ridden advertising combine, has wheeled out its biggest gun yet in its battle against defecting executives, a $50 million New York court writ.

The target for this legal blunderbuss is Bill Muirhead, former head of US operations for the group's Saatchi & Saatchi World Wide agency and one of the so-called "three amigos" who quit last week in protest at the sacking of Maurice Saatchi, the group's founder.

All four men are the target of writs in Britain alleging breach of their contracts with the company, but Mr Muirhead's New York base permits Saatchi & Saatchi to broaden the legal battle to the American courts.

The writ against Mr Muirhead, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, was served in Britain, where he is currently resident and thought to be talking to Mr Saatchi about the latter's plans for a new agency.

It alleges breach of contract and misappropriation of confidential information. Mr Muirhead said the action would be "vigorously defended". He added: "The figure of $50 million claimed ... has no basis and seems designed only to attract news headlines and to intimidate me."

MPs to scrutinise defence industry

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of two influential all-party Commons select committees are to mount a joint inquiry into defence procurement in Britain.

The combined hearings by the Defence and the Trade and Industry committees will bring government policy and company strategies under scrutiny at a time when the defence industry, Britain's biggest, faces unprecedented pressures for pan-European rationalisation.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, and Roger Freeman, the Procurement Minister, will be obliged for the first time to justify the impact of their decisions and strategy on Britain's industrial base and military capability. Senior industrialists from companies such as British Aerospace, GEC and Vickers will also be called to give evidence.

This is believed to be the first joint inquiry since the system of select committees was established in Parliament in 1979. Ministers have always maintained that each committee should scrutinise the work of individual government departments. The inquiry may take the form of a joint subcommittee of the two select committees.

All sides are understood to have agreed in principle to a joint inquiry because of the far-reaching impact of defence equipment purchases. Defence manufacturing accounts for 9 per cent of GDP and 400,000 jobs.

Comrades in arms, page 27

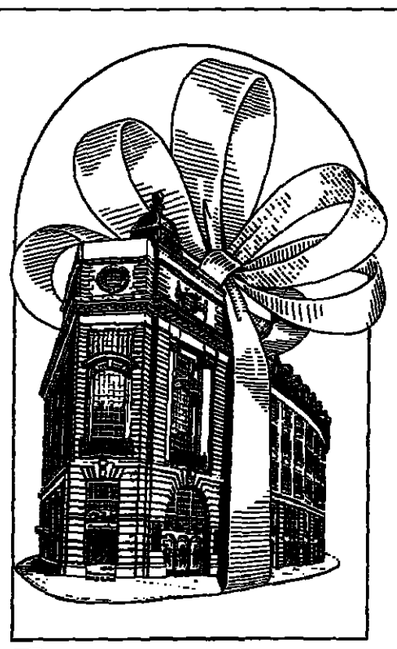
Small firms undercharged by the taxman

COMPANY directors and small businesses are being undercharged on their tax returns by £100 million a year, according to a report published by MPs yesterday (Michael Dynes writes).

An estimated 1.4 million company directors, and some five million self-employed plumbers, retailers and other small businesses, will now face increased tax demands.

Most of the £100 million shortfall is attributable to errors by Inland Revenue tax assessment officials, the Commons Public Accounts Committee said.

A separate report by the National Audit Office found that 70 per cent of Schedule D taxpayers (self-employed), and some 25 per cent of Schedule E taxpayers (company directors) received one or more assessments.



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Naafi opens new front in finance war

BY LIZ DOLAN

THE NAVY, Army and Air Force Institutes, known to every Tommy, Dick and Jack Tar as the Naafi, is gunning for civilians. After the Government's decision to axe one third of its traditional customer base, Naafi Financial Services is, for the first time, marching on civvy street with two new investment funds, appropriately dubbed Trafalgar and Spearhead.

Under a banner headline, *The Investment Minefield and How to Avoid It*, the marketing literature says: "Investment inertia is the enemy of investors for whom active investment management should produce greater returns in the medium to long term."

But strongarm tactics will not be used. There are no proposals to send platoons of financial press-gangs out into suburban streets, forcing unwilling investors to sign up for the duration.

The plans will be marketed by staff with non-military backgrounds who promise to sell only to consenting members of the public, as well as to service personnel, the organisers say.



Trafalgar is a stay-at-home medium risk plan invested mainly in UK blue chips. Spearhead, aimed at the more adventurous investor, will concentrate on overseas funds because, Investment Resources of Cambridge, the fund manager, says: "Concentrating on the UK stock market costs you a world of opportunity."

The richer pickings on overseas markets more than outweigh any exchange rate risks, reckons IRC's gung-ho managing director, David Charters of IRC. The Naafi appears to have missed out itself on these opportunities. It reported an exchange rate loss of £815,000 in the year to April 30, compared with £16,000 previously. But this is apparently caused by the strength of the mark, just one example of the volatile nature of Naafi finances in the face of world events.

Trafalgar and Spearhead will be advertised in the military and conventional press from early February. There will also be a direct mail campaign targeting former armed forces officers and "high net worth" individuals.

The Naafi, which is not part of the Ministry of Defence, is a non-profit-making operation.

صيدا من الاصل

Nearly half of small firms pay under £4 an hour

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

NEARLY half of small businesses employ staff at less than £4 an hour, a possible starting point for a national minimum wage, according to a NatWest/Small Business Research Trust review.

Of more than 1,000 firms surveyed with turnover below £1 million a year, 48 per cent said that they had staff earning less than £4 an hour. This rises to 70 per cent among firms in the retail trade, and to almost 85 per cent among small catering and restaurant firms. Larger firms in the sample were likelier to have low-paid workers. Of businesses employing 50 or more staff, 70 per cent had at least one worker on a lower pay rate. Among smaller firms, many owners working long hours thought that they earned less than £4 an hour, too.

The £4 rate is roughly half median male earnings for a 40-hour week and the figure most widely canvassed as the starting point for any national minimum wage. This was the target for the Labour Party until it dropped its commitment to a figure. Informally, Labour Party thinking is now shifting towards a lower figure, possibly as little as £3.

The NatWest survey supports the claim by minimum wage campaigners that use of part-time workers encourages extremely low pay insufficient to support a family. The more part-time workers that firms in the survey had, the greater the proportion of staff on rates below £4. Not surprisingly, given the dominance of women in part-time jobs, two-thirds of staff earning below that rate were women.

The Government argues that most of the people who would be affected by a minimum would be women who want part-time work and are not the sole earners in their family. Imposing a minimum would therefore cut job opportunities with little benefit. It is not clear how far job opportunities would be cut. Although 70 per cent of owners and managers opposed a statutory minimum, a lower 60 per cent of those who would be affected by a £4 minimum thought they would cut employment.

Ian Peters, head of NatWest's small business services, said: "Many business owners and managers say they would be able to increase wages if their UK competitors were forced to pay a minimum wage. However, a number of businesses made it clear that that, with competition from abroad, imposing a minimum wage in the UK would make them uncompetitive".

Reinsurer ready for battle with its takeover team

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A DUTCH reinsurer's legal action claiming damages of £375 million from Swiss Bank Corporation, Ernst & Young and Bacon & Woodrow will begin in the High Court on Monday.

The case centres on the £122 million takeover by Nederlandse Reassurantie Groep (NRG) of Victory Reinsurance from Legal & General in 1990. The three City firms advised NRG on the deal.

Bill Dikland, NRG chairman, said: "This case will highlight a critical issue in the international financial market place. What is the extent of the responsibility undertaken by banks and other professional advisers when employed to advise on mergers and acquisitions?"

NRG alleges that Ernst & Young and Bacon & Woodrow failed to discover the extent of Victory's exposure to losses emanating from spiral reinsurance business. It later emerged that Victory was significantly under-reserved for a string of events, such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Hurricane Hugo, and storms in October 1987 and January 1990.

NRG alleges that if SBC's investment banking arm had "competently advised" the group, it would not have gone ahead with the acquisition.

Mr Dikland said: "NRG employed advisers to guide it in the acquisition process. NRG would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been warned about the extent of the potential losses on Victory Re's marine and aviation account."

All the defendants reject the claims. E&Y said that it was satisfied that its work was not negligent and promised to defend the action vigorously. A spokesman said: "This is yet another instance of what has turned out to be a bad investment decision when the investor is now attempting to recoup his losses from his professional advisers."

Duncan Ferguson, senior partner of Bacon & Woodrow, said that it firmly rejected NRG's claim and said that the company was one of world's leading international insurers at the time of the bid. He said: "This is the first dispute of this kind which Bacon & Woodrow has had in its 70-year history. As actuaries, we pride ourselves in the quality and professionalism of our specialist work."

SBC denies that its advice was deficient in any way.

According to NRG, the defendants have taken separate proceedings, arguing that if the judge rules against them, the two other defendants are also liable. The case is expected to last six months.

Staff at two banks in pay strike ballot

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of staff at Yorkshire Bank and Clydesdale Bank are to be balloted on a series of one-day strikes after pay talks broke down.

About 9,500 bank workers at Yorkshire, in Leeds, and Glasgow's Clydesdale, which are owned by National Australia Bank, will vote on industrial action before the end of January. Strikes could start next month.

Keith Brookes, assistant secretary at Bifu, the banking and finance union, described the pay offers from Yorkshire and Clydesdale as derisory.

Yorkshire is offering an average pay rise of 4.4 per cent, linked to performance, to replace a system that gave staff an incremental pay rise and an annual rise. It is also offering a bonus pot of £3.2 million, equivalent to an average 4 per cent of pay. But Mr Brookes said the bank had abolished its profit share scheme and the new bonus scheme was "ludicrous".

Hugh Roberts, Bifu negotiating officer, said Clydesdale's offer was equivalent to an average 2.5 per cent and would be conditional on accepting new flexible working hours.

A Yorkshire Bank spokesman said: "We feel our pay offer compares extremely favourably, and in some cases exceeds, pay settlements agreed by the union with our competitors." He was surprised by the union's reaction.



John Thornton plans to try soft drinks to combat chocolate meltdown in the summer

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.00
Austria Sch	17.90	16.40
Belgium Fr	52.46	48.16
Canada $	2.334	2.174
Cyprus Cypf	0.779	0.724
Denmark Kr	10.09	9.28
Finland Mkk	7.98	7.33
France Fr	8.74	8.09
Germany Dm	2.55	2.34
Greece Dr	394.00	369.00
Hong Kong $	12.79	11.79
Iceland Pr	1.06	0.96
Italy Lire	2635.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	170.50	154.50
Malta	0.616	0.561
Netherlds Gld	2.843	2.613
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30
Portugal Esc	259.00	240.50
S Africa Rd	rel.	5.31
Spain Pta	216.00	202.00
Sweden Kr	12.30	11.50
Switzerland Fr	2.15	1.97
Turkey Lira	refer	60739.0
USA $	1.567	1.537

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Rolls-Royce axes 600 jobs

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS and workers reacted with anger yesterday after Rolls-Royce announced plans to close its Scottish aero-engine design centre at East Kilbride, with the loss of 600 jobs.

Work will be concentrated at the company's Derby and Bristol aero-engine manufacturing sites.

A Rolls-Royce spokesman said the company needed fewer design engineers because of the completion of the Trent engine development programme, and efficiency gains through computerisation of design work. With more than 4,500 engineers remaining, the spokesman added, "there will be sufficient capability to cover all present and future engineering programmes".

The company said cost reductions were necessary to maintain competitiveness. Both Rolls's two big American rivals, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney, are engaged in aggressive cost-cutting programmes.

However, employees at East Kilbride accused Rolls of preferring English workers over their Scots colleagues. One, Steve Watson, said: "There is plenty work in that factory to keep us going. This is simply a case of choosing the English over the Scots."

Larry Brooke, national officer for the MSF technical union, said the closure would have a grave impact on East Kilbride, "where jobs are few and far between". He called for government action to support the aerospace industry.

Rolls said the job losses will begin in May, and the entire redundancy programme will be completed by the year end. Up to 100 employees may be offered the opportunity to transfer to Derby or Bristol. Others may be invited to work for other Rolls businesses in Scotland.

A Rolls spokesman dismissed any suggestion that his company lacked commitment to Scotland.

The English sites were better equipped, and in the case of Derby, co-located with test facilities, he said.

The East Kilbride design centre, by contrast, is located alongside Rolls's main United Kingdom aero-engine overhaul centre, which will continue to employ 1,000.

Rolls will continue to employ 4,000 workers in Scotland, including 1,500 at its Hillington compressor blade factory near Glasgow, and 1,500 in its industrial power group, at Peebles, Edinburgh, Sir William Arrol, the structural engineer, in Glasgow and Cochran Boilers, Dumfries.

All of the workers will be offered redundancy terms under Rolls's existing enhanced scheme.

Although the latest cuts are outside the range of the company's main cost reduction programme, the company hopes to fund them, in part at least, through the £200 million provision taken for cost-cutting in 1993.

Thornton's customers buy cheaper

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

BRITAIN'S chocaholics went downmarket during the Christmas period, according to Thorntons, the chocolate manufacturer and retailer.

John Thornton, chairman, said the same number of customers came through the doors, but bought cheaper chocolates. While overall sales in the UK rose 5.5 per cent in the four-week Christmas period, like-for-like sales fell 1.2 per cent.

Mr Thornton admitted the group's advertising campaign, which encouraged buying loose rather than boxed chocolates, was partly to blame. "It is disappointing, but it is a one-off blip," he said.

Total group sales for the 28 weeks to January 7 increased 2 per cent to £57.6 million, with sales from the UK rising almost 3 per cent. Mr Thornton said a strong autumn offset a weak period during the hot summer. The group has made attempts to move into areas such as ice cream to counteract the negative effect of hot weather on chocolate sales, but it has still failed to find a worthy substitute. An expansion into the soft drinks market is planned for next year.

Tempus, page 26

Business round-up

Archer's resignation raises old questions

MICHAEL HESELTINE was pressed yesterday to make a Commons statement after the disclosure that Mary Archer, wife of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, is to resign from the board of Anglia Television. The President of the Board of Trade was urged to give details of his department's investigation into Lord Archer's involvement in a share sale days before Anglia was taken over by MAI, the media group. Lord Archer was investigated for alleged insider dealing by the Department of Trade and Industry, but Mr Heseltine said there were no grounds for action to be taken against the former Conservative Party deputy chairman.

After the revelation in *The Times* yesterday that Dr Archer was standing down after eight years as a non-executive director of Anglia, Angela Eagle, Labour MP for Wallasey, pressed Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, for further information about the share deal. She called for a DTI statement "in the light of this new information".

BCCI ruling delayed

A LUXEMBOURG court has delayed until January 31 a decision on whether to approve a $1.8 billion compensation package from the Abu Dhabi authorities for creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The deal, negotiated by the liquidators, Touche Ross, and the Abu Dhabis, the majority shareholders, has been approved by courts in England and the Cayman Islands. The bank's liquidators had hoped for Luxembourg's ruling last week, but it has been delayed after a court-appointed liquidator said that a solicitor for Abu Dhabi had erased computer records in 1992.

Lasmo in $29.5m sale

LASMO, the oil exploration company, has sold its 18.75 per cent interest in a production-sharing contract in Indonesia to Minora Resources for $29.5 million in cash. Lasmo is selling its entitlement to an estimated 5,000 barrels a day under the Kakap PSC, which comprises two existing fields and two new fields in the West Natuna Sea. In addition, Minora will fund the $6 million cost of drilling a 12,000 ft well in the adjacent Lasmo-owned Cumi Cumi PSC and Lasmo will grant Minora a half share. Lasmo said it "didn't want to drill without funding".

Tempus, page 26

Bankers Trust declines

BANKERS Trust, which is at the centre of controversy over several client investments in derivatives that turned sour last year, reported sharply lower earnings for the fourth quarter. Bankers Trust earned $101 million, or $1.19 a share, in the quarter, down from $279 million, or $3.26, a year ago, which included a record $449 million of trading revenue. For the full year, the bank earned $615 million, or $7.17 a share, down from $995 million, or $11.51 a share, in 1993, when net earnings were reduced by $95 million due to an accounting change. Bankers Trust has been sued by several clients.

Coffee export curb likely

COFFEE exporting nations opened talks in London on measures to maintain prevailing firm prices. Delegates said the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) was likely to support a curb on exports. The talks bring together the 29 producers of about 85 per cent of world exports, including Brazil, the biggest. The ACPC last met in September, when prices had quadrupled to $4,140 a tonne after frosts followed by drought in Brazil. But prices are now below $3,000 a tonne in a market that thinks supply may be more generous than had been supposed.

Aga to sell Avesta stake

AGA, the Swedish industrial gases group, has disclosed it is selling its 7.2 per cent stake in Avesta Sheffield, the Anglo-Swedish steel company in which British Steel (BS) holds a stake of almost 50 per cent. The Aga shares will be sold to Swedish and foreign investors for about 900 million kronor (£77 million), the company said, giving the vendor a capital gain of about 600 million kronor (£51 million). In September, BS paid about £85 million for an additional 9.9 per cent stake in Avesta to bring its holdings to 49.9 per cent. BS said then it had no intention of making an offer for the rest of Avesta.

Neotronics cuts final

NEOTRONICS Technology, the electronics company that pioneered the development of the Electronic NOSE gas detection system, has cut the total dividend to 1.7p from 2.6p after suffering a profit decline to £1.08 million before tax (£2.33 million) in the year to the end of September. The final, payable on March 3, is cut to 0.85p from 1.75p. Profits were affected adversely by a £355,000 charge against development and marketing costs associated with the NOSE. The company said it had laid the foundations for improved future sales and profit performance.

Costain disposal

THE first phase of Costain's disposal programme was announced yesterday with sell-offs, totalling £63.5 million, in the US of a substantial part of its coal and mining interests. The company said in September that it plans to sell its US coal interests and to concentrate its efforts and resources developing its worldwide engineering and construction activities. It announced the sale yesterday of its 80 per cent stake in the Dolet Hills mining venture together with several other peripheral coal mining businesses. The Dolet Hills business has been sold to a subsidiary of Philipp Holzmann.

AIM maintains interim

PRE-TAX profits at AIM Group, the manufacturer of aircraft interiors, collapsed to £185,000 from £1.18 million in the half-year to October 31 as a result of a decision to maintain capacity in the face of a sharp decline in production. AIM warned that full-year profits would fall short of the previous year's £1 million before tax, in spite of an anticipated increase in production in the second half. But prospects for next year were better, and the company is maintaining the 1.5p interim, to be paid on April 13, uncovered by earnings per share of 0.7p, down from 5.4p previously.

Wall St broker guilty of hiring stand-in for jury service

Judgment day for reluctant juror

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN NEW YORK

A TOP Wall Street broker will today start 500 hours of community service after hiring a man, thought to be his mechanic, to do his jury duty for him. Andrew Levinson, a vice-president at Lehman Brothers, agreed to plead guilty to criminal contempt before Manhattan Criminal Court. Lawyers say his is the first case of juror impersonation to produce a conviction.

But he is not alone in the ruse. The New York jury selection process is long and torturous, generally keeping those summoned to the courts away from work for at least a week.

According to Vincent Homenick, an official at the Manhattan court, large numbers of citizens consider themselves too important to bother with jury duty; they either seek endless deferments, or pay an impostor.

"We're going after them," he pledged yesterday. "The days of just throwing your jury duty summons away are over."

Mr Levinson's devious stratagem came apart when a man believed to be his car mechanic took his seat in the jury box. Judge Sheila Abdus-Salaam asked, "Are you Andrew Levinson?" He replied: "No, I'm not," asked to use the bathroom and never returned. Mr Levinson, 36, reportedly offered a humanitarian defence for his actions, saying that he had to get out of jury duty to take his wife on holiday to Italy to recover from months of tending to her father, who was terminally ill. She could not reschedule the trip because she had to return to her teaching job.

Mr Homenick, however, points to Mr Levinson's jury service record: he is recorded as serving only once since 1982 — four days in 1987 — and has obtained 14 deferments since then. The usual number of deferments allowed before being obliged to serve is six.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

REUNION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS IN EDINBURGH

Former members of the Officer Training Corps in Edinburgh are invited to a Beating Retreat, Reception & Buffet Supper on Saturday, 9 September 1995 in The Playfair Library Hall, The University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets, price £25, together with full details can be obtained from - Maureen Clowe, Events Manager, Development & Alumni Services Office, The University of Edinburgh Old College, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL, Tel 0131 650 2234/ Fax 0131 650 2239.

LEGAL NOTICES

Solent Car Sales Limited IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 24 February 1995, to send their full formenames and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, J.J. Schapira, ACA
Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 953, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LP the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED this 13th January 1995
J.J.SCHAPIRA, Liquidator

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
COOMBE VALLEY TRANSPORT LIMITED
Of 16a Princes Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0JA
is applying for a licence to use 16a Princes Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0JA as an operating centre for 16 goods vehicles and 25 trailers
Owners and occupiers of land (including buildings) in the vicinity of the operating centre(s), who believe that their use of property of that land will be prejudicially affected,
MAY MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AT South Eastern & Metropolitan Traffic Area, Ivy House, Ivy Terrace, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4QT within 21 days following the publication of this notice.
Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION No. 7719 of 1994
IN THE MATTER OF QUEENSBOROUGH HOLDINGS PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11 January 1995 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above named company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 14 January 1995.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11 January 1995 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £16,960,000 to £10,578,191.68 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 14 January 1995
DATED this 20 day of January 1995
Stringer Saul of Marcol House, 295 Regent Street, London W1R 7PB
Solicitors for the above Company.

Colin Farley & Associates Limited
The Insolvency Act
and Rules 1986
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 28 February 1995 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned I. A Manning of 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, the Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 17 January 1995
I. A Manning, Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 006681 of 1994
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF LIVINGWELL HEALTH AND LEISURE LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated 21st December 1994 confirming the reduction of the capital redemption reserve of the above-named company from £10,999,999 to £1,000,999 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 10th day of January 1995.
DATED this 13th day of January 1995
ISMAIL & CO
152 Silbury Court, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK9 2HJ
Ref: JH/RJB/25p-1
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. URBAN PROPERTY CORPORATION LIMITED. REGISTERED NUMBER 1966181 COMPANY NAME CARROL PROPERTY CORPORATION LTD
Notice is hereby given that on 13 January 1995, W Brierley of Arthur Anderson was appointed Administrative Receiver of the above company by Bayerische Hypotheken-Und Wechsel-Bank Aktiengesellschaft under the powers contained in debentures dated 2 February 1990, 28 March 1991 and 22 January 1992 containing fixed and floating charges over the assets and undertakings of the company.
Dated this 13th day of January 1995
A W BRIERLEY
Administrative Receiver, Arthur Anderson, P.O. BOX 58, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT.

Lloyd's Packing Warehouses Limited (IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that L.K.D. Goodman, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 582, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LP, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 12th January 1995.
DATED this 12th January 1995
K.D. Goodman, FCA, Liquidator

VAZBOURNE LIMITED t/a WESTMINSTER DISCOUNT STORE (In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that S. D. Swaden, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 953, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LP, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 17th January 1995.
Dated this 17th January 1995
S D SWADEN, FCA, Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 006681 of 1994
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF LIVINGWELL HEALTH AND LEISURE LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dated 21st December 1994 confirming the reduction of the capital redemption reserve of the above-named company from £10,999,999 to £1,000,999 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 10th day of January 1995.
DATED this 13th day of January 1995
ISMAIL & CO
152 Silbury Court, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK9 2HJ
Ref: JH/RJB/25p-1
Solicitors for the Petitioner

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 007 of 1995
IN THE MATTER OF NOBO GROUP plc
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 3rd day of January 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company in amount of £16,000,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr. Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on Wednesday the 1st day of February 1995.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A COPY of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED the 17th day of January 1995
NORTON ROSE
of Kempson House, PO Box 570, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN
Solicitors for the above-named Company
(Ref: MH/61/X131486)

☐ A large pair of shoes to fill ☐ Pentos ring fences its troubles ☐ Ritblat outbids Ross Goobey

Strachan's signing

☐ THE bells might have been ringing in the City yesterday as a puff of white smoke emerged from BTR's headquarters in Victoria. Those wise birds on BTR's board have chosen someone to run the £11 billion industrial products company into the next century, and someone the City feels it can do business with.

Ian Strachan, the chosen one, has a curriculum vitae that is the model of the modern manager. After taking a double first from Cambridge and a masters from Princeton he then found himself a comfortable niche in Exxon for 17 years before being snapped up by RTZ to be its finance director.

By all reports, Mr Strachan is a darling of RTZ's institutional shareholders. They particularly like his slide presentations of the goings-on in RTZ's industrial minerals business.

In contrast, the fund managers could never quite get the hang of Alan Jackson, BTR's current chief executive. He was often too rough-edged for their comfort, and did not have the stringful of academic gongs that they now expect of senior management.

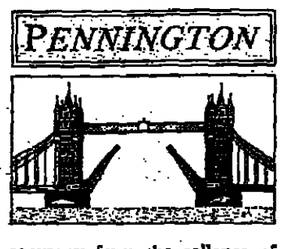
The excitement generated by Strachan's arrival however does Mr Jackson a huge disservice. More than almost anyone in BTR's history he is responsible for building the company into what it is today, first as head of BTR Nylex and more recently as chief executive of the entire group. He was the architect of BTR's bid for Hawker Siddeley, a deal he began planning almost as soon as he arrived in London, and one that transformed the scale of the group's activities.

BTR now has an impregnable position in countless basic industrial markets. Mr Jackson has continued to build dominant market shares in the group's basic businesses with opportunistic acquisitions, such as Formica.

While Mr Jackson was driving forward an £11 billion business, Mr Strachan has been running one with a turnover of scarcely £1 billion. The largest transaction he is credited with to date is the disposal of Pillar, RTZ's industrial products division, and a large part of the business he was supposed to be managing. The sheer scale and diversity of BTR's business is likely to come as a tremendous shock to him when he is given the keys to the big office next January.

In choosing an outsider to run BTR, the board has admitted that it did not think anyone within the group was up to the job. This does a disservice to the leading internal candidate, Kathleen O'Donovan, the finance director. She, however, had two insurmountable handicaps in the race. She is young, and she is a woman. Institutional shareholders like to see men at the helm of their companies, preferably ones in double-breasted suits from the better class of tailor.

BTR's choice of chief executive could well restore it to City grace after its rapid downfall last year. But however loudly the fund managers may proclaim his coronation, Mr Strachan still has it all to prove.



The curse of Athena

☐ THERE is nothing like the loss of £7 million to inspire a sense of rancour and bitterness. Much has been said, mostly uncomplimentary, about the ring-fencing operation that has apparently kept large chunks of Pentos's retail operation out of the hands of the receiver and limited the damage to the parent company from the collapse of Athena.

The unsecured trade creditors of Athena, the poster group that turned up its toes in the dead week between Christmas and new year, are incensed about the financial reorganisation that meant Pentos was not required to stand behind the liabilities of its stricken subsidiary. A study by Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants, gives an idea why.

Consider the position of the average supplier to Athena, perhaps even the contract printer entrusted with the sacred task of producing the ubiquitous tennis poster. He or she trots along to Companies House to discover that the customer is part of a respectable plc and has turnover, of itself, of £173 million in the latest year on record, 1992. An inquiry to Dun & Bradstreet, the company credit specialist, would have yielded similar information.

So far, so reliable. But at the end of last year a large chunk of that customer, comprising the Dillons and Rymans retail chains, was transferred out of the business, then known as Pentos Retailing Group. What was left when the receiver arrived enjoyed sales of a mere £45 million and was therefore a rather less solid entity.

The transfer, at full market value courtesy of work by Arthur Andersen and Schroders, was done theoretically to allow Athena to be sold. When negotiations broke down with potential buyers and the receivers went in, those other two retail businesses were, as it turned out, comfortably outside the ring fence.

One justification, and one of which Jeremy Bentham would have been proud, is that putting the three retail chains together would have meant all would have foundered, to the ruination of a far greater number of creditors. True, but the clear implication is that both Dillons, currently profitable, and Ryman, not yet so but improving, are cut equally adrift from the parent plc. The clear lesson from the Athena saga may not have sunk in to their respective suppliers.

First past the PosTel

☐ IT CAN only be a matter of time before British Land pockets the outstanding share in Broadgate Properties. Rosehaugh's receiver may sit on his hands looking clever and content, but he has little choice but to play ball with Mr Ritblat, who has the trump card of a pre-emption right. A benchmark price of £120 million has been set for the stake, and, sooner or later, Rosehaugh's bankers will get bored of waiting for their money. Few investors will be keen to engage in a bid battle with British Land.

Few that is, with the exception of PosTel. The behaviour of one of the UK's pension funds in the battle for Broadgate has been astonishing. After seeing British Land quietly slip into the back door of Stanhope's posh Berkeley Square headquarter with a shareholding of 29 per cent, most property investors would have watched patiently from the sidelines, waiting to take advantage of any sign of failure.

That would be the normal behaviour of a pension fund; institutions like quiet deals and tend to take a back seat in bid battles.

Mr Ross Goobey takes a different view and appears to relish the role of entrepreneur. This is his second tilt at a quoted property company and the second high-profile failure. What is more extraordinary is that this time the cards were stacked against PosTel from the start.

The joint venture between Rosehaugh and Stanhope gave each side a right of pre-emption if one party wanted to sell. British Land had a secure seat at the table, but PosTel needed both Stanhope and Rosehaugh to agree to its offer. By making an offer to the Rosehaugh receiver, PosTel could only succeed in triggering Stanhope's pre-emption right, leaving the pension fund with no secure bargaining position.

PosTel's pensioners must be bemused at the buccaneering approach to managing their money, which has yet to show any fruit. The trustees are probably feeling bemused as well.

Dissidents threaten NHL's shake-up

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NATIONAL HOME LOANS, the mortgage lender, faces a battle with a dissident group of preference shareholders, who are demanding better terms in the company's financial reorganisation.

Gruss Partners, a little-known institutional investment firm, is contacting NHL's preference shareholders and urging them to veto the reorganisation. According to City sources, Gruss claims to speak for holders of 14 per cent of the preference shares.

Gruss is thought to have approached Jonathan Perry, chairman of NHL, to demand a higher stake in the reorganised group in return for its support for the deal.

NHL needs the approval of 75 per cent of preference shareholders to complete its reorganisation, or it could face further difficult negotiations with its bankers. Michael Bell, managing director of Gruss, was unavailable for comment.

NHL yesterday revealed details of the reorganisation, in which preference shareholders are being offered three ordinary shares for each preference share in return for waiving their rights their accrued dividends which have not been paid since July 1991. The offer will leave the preference shareholders with three quarters of the votes in the reorganised company.

After the conversion, shareholders will be asked to take part in a £50.3 million rights issue, and the shares will be consolidated on a ten-for-one basis. Holders are being offered three new shares for every 25 they hold in the rights issue at 11p each, or 110p once NHL shares are consolidated.

The financial reconstruction and rights issue will end NHL's three-year fight for survival. The group had to be rescued by the Bank of England in 1991 after the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International unsettled the financial markets. It will provide the company with enough capital to continue lending new mortgages and to start paying dividends once again. Mr Perry yesterday said that the reorganisation was crucial for NHL's continued recovery. "Without the new equity, the company will be at the very least set back in its progress and if that happens one must fear for the share price."

The rights issue has also allowed NHL to renegotiate its bank lending arrangements and put in place a new £160 million facility at a far lower interest rate than before. At the height of its financial troubles, the group was forced to sign a £710 million lending arrangement at a high rate.

Tempus, page 26

BTR choice of Strachan confirmed

BTR yesterday confirmed leaked reports that it has appointed Ian Strachan, the deputy chief executive of RTZ, as its new chief executive, the first time an outsider has been chosen to run the group. He will take up the post when Alan Jackson retires at the beginning of next year (Neil Bennett writes).

The news was received well in the City, which has recently been concerned by the lack of any obvious successor to Mr Jackson. Mr Jackson, who will be 60 next year, will remain chairman of BTR Nylex and a director of the company.

"I've had a wonderful innings, but I think we have found an excellent man," Mr Jackson said yesterday. He said that he was looking forward to returning to his native Melbourne to manage his two farms and 1,400 cattle.

BTR said that it is seeking two external non-executive directors, the first time it has looked outside its own executives for board members.

See Pennington, this page

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Sir Philip Harris, centre, chairman of Carpetright, yesterday with Ian Sneyd, finance director, left, and John Kitching, sales director

Carpetright beats a declining market

THE success story at Carpetright has continued unabated as the carpet retailer reported a 46 per cent rise in profits in the first half against the backdrop of a declining market (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Sir Philip Harris, chairman, said the carpet market fell about 10 per cent between April and October last year, a victim of the hot weather and continuing stagnant housing market. Carpetright defied the trend, increasing like for like sales 4 per cent.

Pre-tax profits jumped to £8.05 million from £5.51 million in the six months to October 29. Earnings per share rose to 6.8p from 4.7p. The figures were at the top end of City expectations and some analysts upgraded their full-year profit forecasts by £1 million to about £20 million. The chain now has 12 per cent of Britain's carpet market, double the figure it held when it floated in June 1993.

The group's expansion programme continued with 18 new stores added in the first half bringing the total to 163. A further 22 stores are due to open in the second half. Sir Philip said the group is on track to achieve its target of 250 within the next two and a half years. Sir Philip said current trading was encouraging and the market has begun to stabilise. He forecast a small rise in prices in the spring, the first for more than two years. The interim dividend rises to 3.9p from 2.7p and will be paid on February 24.

Tempus, page 26

Nurdin warning of halved profits

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

NURDIN & PEACOCK, the retailer and warehouse club operator, said yesterday 1994 profits could be halved after higher than expected exceptionals and margin pressure. The news knocked 10p off to shares to 138p.

The group said profits in 1994 would be between £15 million and £18 million, well down on the £32 million in the previous period. The bottom line has been hit by £16.2 million of exceptional charges for reorganisation. The figure is significantly above the £12 million forecast with the interim results in September.

The main problem has been Cargo Club, the warehouse club operation. Start-up costs were expected to total £6.0 million, but have risen to £7.5 million. Nurdin & Peacock has been criticised for overpaying for sites and spending too much on advertising.

Other exceptional costs include £4.5 million to convert its cash and carry branches to the Trade and Business Warehouse format and £2.7 million for stock write-downs, shrinkage and uninsured losses.

In spite of the worsening financial situation, it will maintain the final dividend.

Tempus, page 26

US trade deficit nears record low

THE American trade deficit widened to $10.53 billion in November, indicating a worsening that could make the shortfall for the whole of 1994 the biggest on record.

The Commerce Department said that the deficit in goods and services was 4.3 per cent higher that October's revised $10.10 billion deficit, laying the blame primarily on the seventh consecutive month of record imports. Exports, in which the Clinton Administration has invested much political capital, also climbed to record levels in November, lifted by a surge in aircraft sales, to stand 2.2 per cent higher than in October. After 11 months' figures, the 1994 trade deficit was running at an annualised $152.5 billion, or slightly above the record set in 1987.

Kidder, Peabody charge lops 48% off GE earnings

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

GENERAL Electric's fourth-quarter earnings have fallen 48 per cent after a one-off charge of $917 million relating to Kidder, Peabody, the Wall Street investment firm. Profits were down to $768 million, or 45 cents a share, from $1.47 billion, or 87 cents a share, for the same period in 1993.

For the year GE said its net income, after a $1.18 billion loss from the discontinued operations of Kidder, Peabody, rose 10 per cent to $4.72 billion from $4.31 billion in 1993, which had seen restructuring charges.

Sales for the three months to December 31, rose almost 5 per cent to $17.79 billion from $16.98 billion in the 1993 quarter. Sales for the year rose 8 per cent to $60.10 billion from $55.70 billion in 1993.

Kidder, Peabody lurched from one crisis to another in 1994. Joseph Jett, one of its high-flying traders, was fired after he allegedly invented millions of dollars' worth of fake profits to boost his personal bonus. Michael Carpenter, chief executive, and several other top managers, resigned or were fired, and were replaced by GE executives. Finally, after job cuts and defections, GE put an end to its eight-year foray into brokerage by selling Kidder, Peabody to PaineWebber.

For the year GE said 11 of its 12 businesses had higher revenues, and five businesses — GE Capital Services, Motors, Transportation Systems, Plastics, and Information Services — made double-digit rises. Operating margins rose to a record 13.6 per cent of sales, an improvement on the previous year's 12.5 per cent.

John Welch, the chairman, said the "record results of 220,000 boundaryless GE employees were at times overshadowed by the well-chronicled Kidder, Peabody issue"

Mr Welch added: "For the year, GE achieved record ongoing earnings, operating margins, cash flows and stock turns, while continuing to reduce debt-to-capital and increasing our returns on investment and equity. We enter 1995 positioned better than ever to deliver a year of record results to our shareholders."

Request for Information

Our client wishes to obtain product information from parties able to supply a packaged Fleet Management System to support the areas of Fleet Management, Finance, Decision Support, Reporting and archival of data. The supplier should provide the following information:

- Hardware, software and database environments the application is designed for;
- Salient features of the package;
- The extent of package usage in Australia and overseas;
- The style of support/maintenance provided by the supplier;
- Indicative licensing costs;
- Quality standards used in developing, distributing and supporting the package;
- Brief history of the supplying/maintaining company.

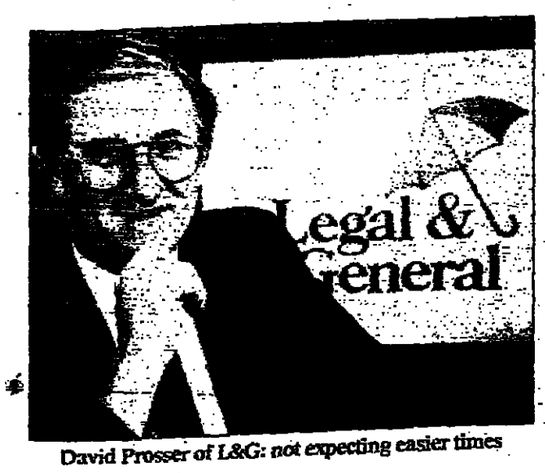
Please forward all information to:
Natalie Hamilton
Ernst & Young Consulting
GPO Box 2646
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

The closing date for the Request for Information is 5.00pm on Friday 3 February 1995.

ERNST & YOUNG

21460DS

L&G figures show pensions market damage



David Prosser of L&G: not expecting easier times

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL & GENERAL, the UK insurer, yesterday revealed the extent of the damage caused to the industry by mis-selling of pensions and the requirement for commissions to be disclosed.

L&G's new business figures for 1994 showed sharp falls in sales in numerous lines of business. Prudential, the UK's largest life insurer, confirmed the tough market conditions with weak new business sales.

L&G's statement, which came an hour and a quarter after the market closed, revealed that worldwide new life and pensions business had fallen 20 per cent to £1.1 billion. In the UK, sales of pension products slumped 26 per cent from £726.1 million to £534.1 million. The biggest decline was sales of single pensions, which tumbled 29 per cent to £471.1 million. The decline in sales of annual pensions was contained to 4 per cent.

Last February L&G was fined £180,000 and forced to pay costs of £220,000 by its regulator after being found guilty of serious rule breaches. David Prosser, chief executive, said: "The UK market has proved difficult in 1994," adding that he did not expect a significant improvement in the operating environment.

Prudential revealed a negligible rise in worldwide sales of life, pensions and investment products in 1994. The shares fell 1p to 316p. A breakdown revealed that regular contribution sales rose 8 per cent to £620 million while single contribution sales were flat at £5.1 billion.

Reflecting the turbulence in the insurance industry in the UK, British new business sales fell 2 per cent. Annual premium personal pension sales fell 7 per cent to £115 million, while single premium personal pension sales dropped 38 per cent to £249 million.

A company spokesman said that the decline in personal pension sales reflected the industry's "unpopularity" caused by pensions mis-selling and the sharp drop in pension transfers business. The group benefited from better performances elsewhere: investment product sales almost tripled to £96 million while overseas operations lifted sales of both regular and single premium products.

London & Manchester also reported new business figures, buoyed by a 39 per cent leap in sales of corporate pensions. As a result new annual premiums rose 4.3 per cent. Single premium business fell 13.7 per cent. The shares fell 3p to 317p.

STOCK MARKET — MICHAEL CLARK



Demand for Wellcome brings talk of takeover

THERE is no smoke without fire, and yesterday's heavy turnover in shares of **Wellcome**, the pharmaceutical group, has led some investors to believe that something is afoot.

Wellcome touched 694p, before ending the day 5p better at 684p as almost 10 million shares, worth an estimated £67 million, changed hands. Admittedly, some of the stock was left over from a large program trade the previous evening, but the price has risen 21p in two days and once again there is talk that **Glaxo** is ready to make a takeover bid.

During the past year the pharmaceutical industry worldwide has been buzzing with news of joint ventures, takeovers and mergers. Big has become beautiful as companies attempt to become major players by splitting the cost of developing new drugs and putting together sizeable portfolios of lucrative products.

Last week's news that the US Food and Drug Administration had refused Wellcome permission to market Zovirax, its cold sores treatment, over the counter came as a blow. Some brokers claim it left the group looking vulnerable.

In the past few years the Wellcome Trust has reduced its holding in the company to 40 per cent. Glaxo, down 12p at 662p, is sitting on a cash mountain of more than £2 billion, but would need to raise more funds to match Wellcome's current price-tag of almost £6 billion.

Elsewhere, share prices generally were weak with losses accelerating towards the close as Wall Street opened sharply lower on the back of a widening US trade gap. This dragged the future lower and the cash market trailed in its wake as pressure for another rise in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic grew.

Once again trading conditions were thin and by the close of business only 535.1 million shares had been traded. The FT-SE 100 index managed to close just above its low for the day with a fall of 26.3 points at 3,028.6. Markets makers remained cautious, aware that a number of lines of stock were still overhanging the market following Wednesday's large program trade.

BTR marked time at 304p as the City gave a cautious thumbs-up to the appointment of Ian Strachan as chief executive. He will replace Alan Jackson at the end of the year. Strachan was previously with RTZ.



Unigate's Ross Buckland is believed near to Nutricia sell-off

Kingfisher hit a three-year low, with the price easing a further 1½p to 400½p as traders continued to reflect on this week's profits warning and the difficult task facing the management in whipping the group back into shape.

Warburg could soon find itself on the receiving end of an approach from either one of the big European or American houses. Yesterday early attention focused on the German *Dresdner Bank, with the powerful Deutsche Bank, that already owns Morgan Grenfell, also tipped as possible suitor. But the real money is resting on JP Morgan, perhaps Wall Street's most famous bank. Since Warburg broke off talks with Morgan Stanley, it has been frantically cutting costs and re-shaping the business. The dramatic drop in stock market turnover and the downturn in corporate activity resulted in the group issuing a profits warning towards the end of last year. Meanwhile, **Mercury Asset Management**, Warburg's separately quoted fund management arm, jumped 19p to 767p. There is talk of Warburg selling off 10 per cent of MAM, raising an estimated £364 million. MAM turned out to be the stumbling block on which the Morgan Stanley bid faltered.

Unigate stood out with a rise of 9p to 359p as word went round that the group, headed by Ross Buckland, is near to disposing of its 32.6 per cent stake in Nutricia, the Dutch baby foods group, to Sandoz for an estimated £200 million. There has been talk in the market place for some time that Unigate has had a "for sale" sign up over the business and would use the proceeds to bid for the likes of **Hazlewood Foods**, 1p firmer at 109p, after going ex-dividend.

British Land firmed 3p to 363p after finally obtaining the green light to bid for Stanhope Properties, the USM-quoted property developer which owns a half-share in the City's Broadgate development. Proposals to rescue the heavily indebted Stanhope put forward by the Postel pension fund were rejected, leaving the way clear for British Land. It is now set to bid £125.5 million for Stanhope as the first step towards seizing control of the entire Broadgate development. British Land already owns nearly 30 per cent of **Stanhope**, still suspended at 8p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts were again dragged lower in early trading on the back of revived inflationay worries. The rise in mortgage rates, and the pick-up in retail sales during December provided a dull backdrop to business, but a few cheap buyers later took up the running.

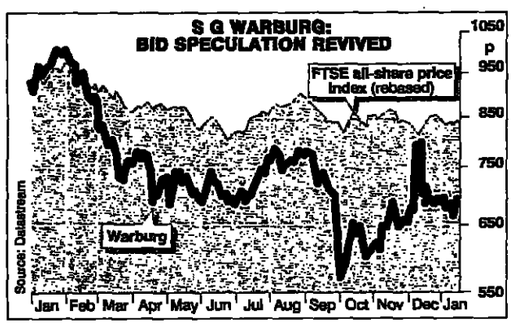
In the future pit, the March series of the long gilt finished a tick firmer at £101$^{7}/_{32}$ as 46,000 contracts were traded. At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 was also a tick firmer at £103¾, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 marked time at £102$^{31}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were lower at midday, with banks and Japanese ADRs among the losers. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.59 at 3,901.39.

It has been a difficult few weeks for Reed International. The price dropped a further 16p to 75½p yesterday, with 1.5 million shares traded, after James Capel, the broker, issued a sell recommendation. Earlier this month, Smith New Court, the broker, made a hole in the price by cutting its profits forecast.

RMC Group fell 7p to 948p, despite talk of a profits upgrading from Hoare Govett, the broker. Hoare is believed to have raised its forecast for 1994 by £20 million to £275 million and for 1995 by £22 million to £325 million.

SG Warburg, London's biggest investment bank, advanced 8p to 745p as bid speculation intensified. The share price has jumped 57p in three days amid claims that the group could again be the target of a bid just weeks after breaking off merger talks with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	3901.39	(-27.59)
S&P Composite	467.73	(-1.98)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	19075.74	(-147.57)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	7422.00	(-208.20)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	413.51	(-0.94)
Sydney:		
AO	1894.4	(+5.8)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	2089.36	(+10.51)
Singapore:		
Straits	2081.33	(-22.23)
Brussels:		
General	7155.21	(+37.78)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1837.11	(-23.16)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	641.40	(+0.30)
London:		
FT 30	2309.9	(-28.2)
FT 100	3028.6	(-26.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3449.3	(-15.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1323.84	(-3.17)
FT A All-Share	1503.00	(-10.85)
FT Non Financials	1632.37	(-11.47)
FT Gold Mines	213.5	(-2.8)
FT Fixed Interest	109.30	(-0.05)
FT Govt Secs	90.80	(-0.11)
Bargains	18416	
SEAQ Volume	535.1	
USM (Datastrm)	147.29	(+0.14)
US$	1.5698	(-0.0022)
German Mark	2.4030	(-0.0011)
Exchange Index	79.5	(-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.2667	
£:SDR	1.0724	
RPI	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmnt Inv (100)	99	...
BSkyB	256	...
British Assets Gth		...
Caledonian Media Wts	6½	...
Clydeport	167	+1
First Russ Frntiers ($10)	585	...
Grnmre Micro Ind (500)	511	+1
Hill Hire	102	...
Investors Capital		...
Invstrs Cap Inc An		...
Kiln Capital (100)	100	...
Lazard Birla Ida.	53½	...
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	31½	...
MICE Group (3)	3¼	...
Matheson Lyds IT (100)	82	...
Pentex Oil	105	...
RM (175)	209	...
Telewest Comm (182)	181	+ ½
Wellington Under (100)	102	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Hewitt n/p (68)	23	+1
Powell Duffryn n/p (440)	66	+3
Verity n/p (7½)	¾	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

SG Warburg	745p (+8p)
Huntleigh Tech	443p (+8p)
Unigate	359p (+9p)
Barbour Index	167p (+12p)
Ramco Energy	242p (+10p)
MAM	768p (+20p)
Carpetright	256p (+10p)

FALLS:

HSBC	643p (-12p)
Courtaulds	438p (-8p)
BICC	312p (-22p)
Tadpole Tech	235p (-11p)
Reed Int	751p (-16p)
Thomson Corp	745p (-20p)
Flogas	240p (-40p)
SmithKline	464p (-10p)
Jeff Smurfit	392p (-12p)
Nurdin Peacock	138p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Home Loans alone

RECALCITRANT preference shareholders permitting, National Home Loans is on course to pull off a remarkable coup. In the past three years, the company has pulled itself back from the brink of receivership and struggled back to some semblance of corporate normality, despite accumulated losses of £238 million between 1991 and 1993. Yesterday's conversion of the preference shares and accompanying rights issue should complete the company's convalescence, and give it the capital base to fund the expansion of its loan book and even pay dividends.

It is one thing to survive, quite another to prosper. NHL's £1.6 billion loan book is likely to continue shrinking for up to two more years as old borrowers pay off their expensive loans faster than new customers pass the strengthened credit-control procedures. The recession has made homebuyers wary of centralised lenders, since they gained a deserved reputation for charging exorbitant rates and repossessing quickly when times grew hard.

But there is nothing to prevent NHL rebuilding its customer base over time, given its popularity among intermediaries, to whom it pays generous commissions. The margins on NHL's book are more than healthy and its costs are low, and the group could make £15 million this year. After the consolidation and cash call, the shares should trade at about 150p, putting them on a reasonable forward p/e ratio of eight and a dividend yield of 3.5 per cent. That is not expensive, particularly as the newly restored company could become an attractive bid target, now that centralised lending is coming back into fashion.

Carpetright

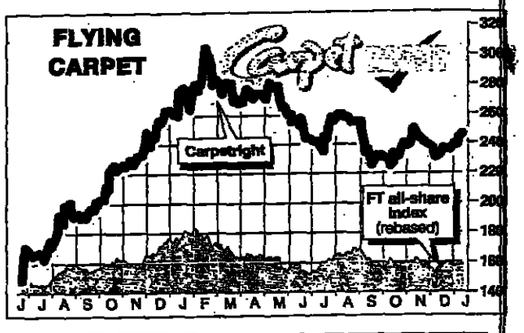
YET again, Carpetright's profits came in at the top end of City forecasts, with a 46 per cent rise in first-half profits. If it can increase the bottom line at this rate without a recovery in the housing market, one may wonder what it can produce when an upturn finally materialises.

Carpetright has certainly been a beneficiary of the bloodbath going on in the carpet manufacturing industry. Aggressive new entrants and overcapacity have led to fierce price-cutting, which Carpetright has quite rightly been quick to exploit.

However, that is not the whole story. Sir Philip Harris, chairman, has made the most of the group's growing economies of scale. It has, after all, doubled its market share in less than two years. Indeed, it buys some ranges from suppliers cheaper now than it did a few years ago.

Net operating margins increased to 12.4 per cent, from 10.9 per cent, in the first half, a figure that leaves most retailers, who are struggling to make it into double digits, looking on enviously. With an upturn in the housing market, margins of 15 per cent are not inconceivable two or three years down the line.

Meanwhile the group is accumulating cash at a rate of about £6 million a year. It has no need to diversify away from its core business just yet, because there are still several years of growth to come, but this cash will give the group the resources to fund any expansion plans.



Lasmo

NEWS has been sparse from Lasmo since the oil company fought off the bid from Enterprise Oil last year, and not surprisingly, the company's shares have slipped in a sluggish market and flat oil price.

Unsupported by bid rumour and without substantial evidence of exploration success, investors have little to justify a rating much above the current price of 144p, near enough some estimates of net asset value.

Oil prices of $16 a barrel do not help, as Lasmo is not making much money at this level and is unlikely to produce profits until cheaper production comes on stream. Earnings are not expected to hit the bottom line until 1996, and even at that stage the market is divided on whether Lasmo will pay a dividend.

Such a dull outlook could be transformed by a boost to the oil price or a substantial discovery. Algeria is looking very attractive; the company has a stake in the Ghadames Basin, where estimates of reserves vary between 300-700 million barrels. Unfortunately, hard information is still unavailable and a cynical London market discounts the value of oil at a rate proportionate to its distance from the City. Algerian political strife doesn't help. Longer term, Lasmo is attractive, a view taken seriously by Enterprise Oil and which could be taken seriously again by it, or another company.

Nurdin & Peacock

IF ANYONE believed that the squeeze on the food retailers was becoming softer, Nurdin & Peacock showed otherwise yesterday. Its warning that profits in 1994 were between £15 million and £18 million, compared with forecasts of around £25 million was a considerable shock. The market had already made allowances for the costs of integrating M6 Cash and Carry, and a rash of capital spending throughout the company, but the cost of all this activity has proved much higher than at first thought.

In all, the company estimates it has spent an extra £13.7 million more on store conversions, start-ups and stock write-offs. The capital cost of all this activity has also resulted in a £4.2 million turn in the interest charge.

The question all this dire information does not answer is how much of the fall of up to £17 million in profits last year was caused by the development activity, and how badly the company is suffering from increased competition with the discount food retailers. The discount war is going to make it hard for Nurdin to bounce back from last year's reverses quickly, making the shares look expensive, even on their reduced price.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	991-990	May	1042-1039
May	992-990	Jul	1052-1049
Jul	1022-1001	Sep	1062-1060
Sep	1014-1010	Dec	1077-1074
Dec	1023-1021		
Mar	1034-1031	Volume: 2780	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2860-2840	Sep	2840-2837
Mar	2865-2864	Nov	2830-2810
May	2840-2835	Jan	2830-2810
Jul	2825-2815	Volume: 3975	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	357.5-55.5
Spot: 409 9		Dec	352.5-49.0
Mar	409.0-07.5	Mar	346.5-42.5
May	404.5-02.5	May	346.4-40.7
Aug	388.5-87.0	Volume: 2630	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	79.37	115.92	120.14
(+/-)	+1.64	-0.19	-1.02
Eng/Wales:	79.37	115.59	119.66
(+/-)	+1.64	-0.82	-0.97
(%)	-8.0	-21.0	-13.0
Scotland:	117.10	122.48	121.73
(+/-)	+1.81	+1.33	+1.33
(%)	-37.0	-10.0	-10.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.20	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.65	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.45	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.25	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 166 (-1)	O: 167 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	146 (n/c)	147 (-1)
Non EEC IH Feb	147 (-1)	148 (-1)
Non EEC IH Mar	149 (-1)	150 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	109 (-1)	111 (-1)
Naphtha	162 (-2)	164 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	144.50-44.75	May	148.50-48.75
Mar	146.75-147.0	Jun	149.00-49.50
Apr	148.00 BID	Vol: 13976	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.88-16.87	Jun	16.52-16.57
Apr	16.66-16.67	Jul	16.49-16.54
May	16.57-16.61	Vol: 28627	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	107.60	Jan	104.25
Mar	108.50	Mar	105.25
May	110.35	May	107.00
Jul	111.90	Sep	97.15
Sep	97.45	Nov	98.20
Volume: 116		Volume: 41	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	318.0	327.5
May	350.0	347.5
Jun	unq	unq
	Volume: 282	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Feb 115.25-115.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 95	2050	2015	2015
Feb 95	2020	1940	1945
Mar 95	2025	1980	1940
Apr 95	2019	1910	1920
Vol: 417 lots		Open Interest: 3838	
	Index 3070 -t		

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol: 2127725
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	3057.0-3059.0	3064.0-3065.0	
Lead ($/tonne)	672.50-673.00	689.50-690.00	205950
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1206.0-1206.5	1232.0-1232.5	1083250
Tin ($/tonne)	6475.0-6480.0	6570.0-6575.0	42290
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne	2111.0-2111.5	2148.0-2148.5	1417175
Nickel ($/tonne)	9940.0-9945.0	10090-10095	99148

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3068.0	3070.0	3028.0	3030.0	14967
Previous open interest: 63160	Jun 95	3053.0	3053.0	3053.0	3041.0	10
FT-SE 250	Mar 95				3450.0	0
Previous open interest: 3947	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	92.84	92.85	92.77	92.82	23569
Previous open interest: 411500	Jun 95	92.09	92.10	91.99	92.07	23284
	Sep 95	91.60	91.60	91.47	91.57	8409
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95				93.17	0
Previous open interest: 2192	Jun 95				92.48	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.69	94.71	94.64	94.67	46480
Previous open interest: 680256	Jun 95	94.24	94.25	94.18	94.22	52848
Long Gilt	Mar 95	101-07	101-12	100-30	101-07	46552
Previous open interest: 90902	Jun 95	101-13	101-13	101-13	101-13	25
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.18	108.18	108.07	108.15	1945
	Jun 95				107.44	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	89.76	89.91	89.58	89.74	105171
Previous open interest: 191144	Jun 95	89.30	89.30	89.07	89.17	398
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.45	93.47	93.41	93.44	2690
Previous open interest: 21523	Jun 95	92.98	92.97	92.92	92.94	1347
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	95.70	95.70	95.62	95.68	4444
Previous open interest: 41437	Jun 95	95.37	95.37	95.31	95.34	1757
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	99.90	99.93	99.27	99.39	30989
Previous open interest: 47724	Jun 95				98.54	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 6%
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7-, Low 6⅛, Week fixed: 6%
Treasury Bills (Dis)-Buy: 2 mth 6%; 3 mth 6%, Sell: 2 mth 6; 3 mth: 6%.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6⅝-6⅝	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅝-6⅝	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛
Overnight: open 6½, close 6⅛.					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅝	7	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.90	n/a	6.31	6.71	7.39
Building Society CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6¼	6¼-6¼	7⅛-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 30, 1994 Agreed rates Jan 25, 1995 to Feb 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.71 %. Reference rate Dec 1, 1994 to Dec 30, 1994 Scheme IV & V: 6.402 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5¼	5-5⅛	5⅛-5¼	5⅜-5½	5⅛-4⅞
Deutschemark:	4⅛-4¼	4⅜-4½	5⅛-5	5⅝-5⅜	5⅛-4⅞
French Franc	5⅛-5⅜	5⅛-5⅜	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛	6-5
Swiss Franc	3⅛-3¼	3⅜-3½	4⅛-3⅝	4⅛-4	4⅛-3⅛
Yen:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅜-2⅛	2⅝-2⅜	2⅝-2⅜	2⅛-1⅞

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $381.85-382.25 Close: $382.50-383.00 High: $382.60-383.10
Low: $380.30-380.80 AM: $383.10 PM: $381.90

Krugerrand: $382.00-384.00 (£243.25-245.25)

Platinum: $417.00 (£265.60) Silver: $4.88 (£3.105) Palladium: $156.25 (£99.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Jan 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6938-2.7039	2.6938-2.6972	¼-par	1-¼pr
Brussels	49.50-49.60	49.50-49.60	6-1pr	18-10pr
Copenhagen	9.4610-9.4960	9.4640-9.4780	¼-par	1-¼pr
Dublin	1.0060-1.0090	1.0061-1.0088	4-1pr	9-5pr
Frankfurt	2.3965-2.4000	2.3965-2.3997	¼-par	¼-par
Lisbon	247.95-248.98	247.95-248.59	75-84dis	232-253dis
Madrid	209.01-209.54	209.01-209.31	38-45dis	116-136dis
Milan	2531.10-2542.20	2531.90-2535.20	5-7dis	15-18dis
Montreal	2.2242-2.2402	2.2371-2.2402	0.31-0.40dis	0.58-0.71dis
New York	1.5668-1.5760	1.5750-1.5760	0.03-0.01pr	0.07-0.04pr
Oslo	10.4870-10.5460	10.4870-10.5030	¼-pr	2-1¼pr
Paris	8.3010-8.3310	8.3010-8.3150	¼-pr	1¼-1pr
Stockholm	11.7500-11.8010	11.7770-11.8010	¼-2dis	4½-5dis
Tokyo	156.44-156.88	156.55-156.82	¼-par	1¼-1¼pr
Vienna	16.92-16.98	16.94-16.98	2-1¼pr	6¼-6pr
Zurich	2.0197-2.0329	2.0197-2.0227	¼-par	1¼-1¼pr

Source: Extel — Premium = pr. Discount = dis.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3046-1.3054
Austria	10.78-10.78
Belgium (Com)	31.57-31.78
Canada	1.4187-1.4192
Denmark	6.0380-6.0410
France	5.2950-5.2980
Germany	1.5328-1.5335
Hong Kong	7.7365-7.7405
Ireland	1.5548-1.5557
Italy	1610.25-1612.25
Japan	99.81-99.85
Malaysia	2.5528-2.5538
Netherlands	1.7183-1.7188
Norway	6.6985-6.7005
Portugal	158.17-158.27
Singapore	1.4524-1.4534
Spain	133.28-133.38
Sweden	7.4891-7.4991
Switzerland	1.2910-1.2920

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5695-1.5721
Australia dollar	2.0483-2.0509
Bahrain dinar	0.5850-0.5970
Brazil real	1.3246-1.3287
Cyprus pound	0.735-0.745
Finland markka	7.3875-7.3935
Greece drachma	371.25-378.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.1479-12.1572
India rupee	48.76-49.72
Kuwait dinar KD	0.464-0.474
Malaysia ringgit	4.0069-4.0110
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4429-2.4463
Pakistan rupee	47.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8225-5.9485
Singapore dollar	2.2801-2.2821
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5076-6.5747
S Africa rand (com)	5.5632-5.5692
U A E dirham	5.7000-5.8240

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	780	Legal & Gn	932
ASDA Gp	6,100	Lloyds Bk	1,400
Abbey Natl	2,500	M.EPC	1,800
Allid Dom	748	*Marks Spr*	1,400
Argyll Gp	8,000	NatWst Bk	2,700
Ayls Wiggn	776	Nat Power	493
Allrit Foods	91	Nth Wst W	168
BAA	2,300	P & O	1,100
BAT Inds	3,600	Pearson	464
BOC	2,300	PowerGen	1,700
BP	7,200	Prudential	2,800
BTR	11,000	RMC	241
BT	10,000	RTZ	1,300
Bk of Scot	250	Rank Org	3,700
Barclays	2,100	Reckitt Col	542
Bass	1,800	Redland	967
Blue Circle	2,500	Reed Intl	1,600
Boots	820	Renzuki	424
Bowater	920	Reuters	3,300
Brit Aero	2,400	Rolls Royce	2,000
Brit Airways	2,700	Ryl Ins	792
Brit Gas	9,100	Ryl Bk Scot	1,300
Brit Steel	8,700	Sainsbury	6,200
Burmah Cstl	374	Schroders	63
Cable Wire	4,000	Scot & New	1,400
Cadbury	1,300	Scot Power	797
Caradon	1,100	Sears	7,900
Carlton Cms	326	Svrn Trent	722
Cm Union	804	Shell Trans	2,600
Courtaulds	676	Slebe	505
De La Rue	621	SmKl Bch	3,400
Eastern Elec	520	Smith Nph	1,200
Enterpr Oil	5,000	Sthern Elec	1,700
Ferre	999	Std Chard	2,500
GKN	1,000	Sun Alliance	798
GRE	1,100	TI Gp	427
GUS	1,100	TSB	2,100
Gen Acc	4,600	Tesco	3,200
Gen Elec	2,600	Thames W	1,700
Glaxo	5,300	Thm EMI	1,400
Granada	214	Tomkins	6,200
Grand Met	5,200	*Unilever*	1,300
Guinness	3,000	Utd Biscs	909
HSBC	2,800	Vodafone	6,300
Hanson	2,700	Warburg	2,300
ICI	2,900	Wellcome	10,000
Inchcape	828	Whitbread	2,300
Kingfisher	4,700	Wimpy Hld	1,300
Ladbroke	2,200	Wolseley	177
Land Secs	417	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Jan 19 midday	Jan 18 close
AMP Inc	74	73½
AMR Corp	59	58½
AT & T	69⅝	70
Abbott Labs	32⅜	33⅛
Advanced Micro	31¼	33⅜
Aetna Life	50½	50⅞
Ahmanson (H F)	16½	17
Air Prod & Chem	45⅜	46⅛
Albertson's	28⅛	28⅜
Alcan Aluminm	26¼	27
Alco Standard	67⅛	66¼
Allied Signal	36¼	36¼
Allum Co of Am	89⅜	89⅜
Amax Gold Inc	5¼	5⅛
Amerada Hess	44⅛	44⅛
Amer Brands	37⅜	38⅛
Amer El Power	34½	34½
Amer Express	30⅝	30⅞
Amer Genl Corp	29⅜	29⅜
Amer Home Pr	65½	65⅜
Amer Intl	109¾	109¾
Amer Stores	26⅞	27⅛
Ameritech	42½	41⅞
Amoco	58⅜	58⅜
Anheuser-Busch	52⅞	52⅝
Apple Computer	45¼	45⅝
Archer Daniels	19⅜	19⅜
Armco	7	6⅞
Armstrong Wrld	44⅛	43⅝
Asarco	30⅜	29⅝
Ashland Oil	35⅜	35⅝
Atl Richfield	104⅛	105
Auto Data Pro	55⅞	56⅛
Avery Dennison	36¼	36½
Avon Products	56⅜	55⅝
Baker Hughes	18	17⅞
Baldin Gas & El	23	23
Banc One	27⅞	27⅞
Bankamerica	41⅛	41⅛
Bank of NY	29⅜	29⅜
Bankers Tr NY	57⅜	59
Barnet Banks	41⅛	41½
Bausch & Lomb	35⅜	35⅞
Baxter Intl	22⅝	22⅝
Becn Dickinson	50½	51¼
Bell Atlantic	50⅜	50⅞
Bellsouth	54⅝	54⅜
Black & Decker	24½	24⅛
Block (H&R)	34½	35
Boeing	48⅛	49¼
Bolse Cascade	29⅜	30
Borden Inc	12⅝	12⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	59⅜	59⅜
Browning Ferris	30	29⅝
Brunswick	20¼	20¾
Burlington Nthn	55½	55⅜
CBS	39⅛	39⅛
CNA Financial	67⅛	67⅛
CPC Intl	53⅞	54
CSX	74½	75⅛
Campbell Soup	42⅝	42⅝
Can Pacific	14⅛	14⅛
Cpl Cities ABC	87	86⅝
Carolina Pwr	27⅜	27⅜
Caterpillar	67⅜	67⅜
Central & SW	23	23⅛
Champion Intl	40⅞	40⅞
Chase Manhtn	33⅜	34⅛
Chemical Bk	37⅞	37⅞
Chevron Corp	45⅛	45⅛
Chrysler	49⅝	50
Chubb Corp	79⅜	80
Cigna Corp	87⅞	87⅞
Citicorp	40⅞	40⅞
Clorox	55⅞	56
Coastal Corp	23⅜	23⅜
Coca Cola	90⅜	90⅜
Colgate-Palmolive	58⅜	58⅜
Columbia Gas	20⅜	20⅜
Compaq Comp	43⅞	43⅞
Comp Ass Int	54⅜	54⅜
Conagra	30⅞	30⅞
Cons Edison	27⅜	27⅜
Cons Nat Gas	34	34⅛
Cons Rail	54⅛	54⅜
Coopr Inds	35⅜	35⅜
Corning Inc	32⅜	31¾
Crown Cork	39⅜	39⅜
Dana Corp	24⅜	24⅜
Dayton Hudson	69⅜	69⅜
Deere	73	74⅛
Delta Air Lines	58½	58⅜
Deluxe Corp	28⅝	28⅝
Digital Equip	27⅞	27⅞
Disney (Walt)	46⅛	45⅞
Dominion Res	36⅜	36⅜
Donnelley (RR)	30⅜	30⅜
Dover Corp	38⅜	37⅞
Dow Chemical	69⅜	69⅜
Dow Jones	32	31½
Dresser	19⅜	19⅜
Duke Power	39⅜	39⅜
Dun & Bradstreet	55½	55⅜
Du Pont	57⅞	57⅞
Eastman Kodak	47⅝	48⅛
Eaton Corp		

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

New bride for Holdsworth

SIR Trevor Holdsworth, whose long City career has seen him as chairman at British Satellite Broadcasting, GKN, Allied Colloids and now at National Power, has a new admirer in his life who says he is a "thoroughly nice bloke". Jenny Watson, his PA for the past nine years, says (without prejudice) he is not the awe-inspiring director shareholders might think, and has accepted his proposal of marriage. Sir Trevor, widowed 14 months ago and who celebrates his 68th birthday on May 29, and Jenny take their vows in London on January 28. If there is an organist at the ceremony, he had better watch his notes. Sir Trevor is not only a formidable accountant, but also an accomplished classical pianist. He has performed on behalf of various charities at, among other places, the Festival Hall, the Banqueting House, and various cathedrals. The honeymoon will be short and sweet. Sir Trevor is busy guiding into public hands the Government's remaining stake in National Power, and Jenny has to be back at work.



"Good morning — could I interest you in a Naafi pension policy?

Best and worst

IAN STRACHAN, deputy to RTZ chief executive Robert Wilson, will certainly make an elegant addition to BTR when he joins as managing director on April 25, just 17 days after his 52nd birthday. On January 1 next year, he succeeds Alan Jackson as BTR's chief executive — a position of power for which he would have had to wait much longer had he stayed with RTZ. Colleagues say Ian is a marvellous communicator — just what BTR needs — and his suits, and perfect haircut, mark him out as one of City's best dressers. Here's hoping the ghost of Sir Owen Green, BTR's man at the helm until May, 1993, has been laid. In his day, he was often voted the City's worst dressed businessman.

Pincer move

WARBURG could not be won on the market. But will it be beaten in the street? Having repelled a stock market assault from Morgan Stanley, Warburg may be facing a threat to its foundations from a client, British Land. The property company already owns Warburg's HQ at 1-3 Finsbury Avenue and the addition of Broadgate will leave it surrounded by British Land. No one at BL will admit to ambitions to take over a merchant bank, but with former Warburg alumnus Nick Ritblat on board, his father, chairman John, is in a strong position to make a move.

Two-way bet

HAVING trouble motivating staff? Take a leaf from Robert Caban, managing director of Osram, the British subsidiary of Siemens. His bright idea to inspire more effort is to offer two equal annual prizes. One for best individual performance. The other for the biggest mistake. Blessed too are they who take a risk!

COLIN CAMPBELL

Defence industry fights for a future without the US

Britain recruits comrades in arms

Procurement decisions will determine the alliances that reshape European defence strategy, says Ross Tieman

Britain's defence industry is fighting for a future. Caught in a no-man's land between American mega-mergers and Franco-German rapprochement, it is ducking and diving in an effort to retain the critical mass and technological leadership that have made it the biggest in the Western world, outside the United States.

The tension is mounting. A series of defence industry consolidations in the United States, culminating in the merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta, which was approved by federal authorities last week, has given the Americans formidable economies of scale.

At the same time, though less reported in Britain, France and Germany have formed a joint procurement executive designed to synchronise and combine much of their defence purchasing. Based on an agreement signed at Mulhouse, France, last August, this has given rise to a new French project of European integration: l'Europe de l'Armament.

The creation of a single, unified arms industry in Europe is becoming a cornerstone of industrial, defence and European policy for both France and Germany. France, which like Britain has an overlarge defence manufacturing sector rooted in Cold War insecurities and a colonial past, has multiple goals.

It wants to contain the threat of a German military resurgence; it wants to counter American economic might; and it wants a partner to share the cost of staying in the arms technology race.

Germany, aggressively rebuilding its aerospace and defence technology base, wants to make the equipment its forces will need for a growing international role without the cost or publicity of going it alone.

For cost is containing the ambition of politicians and generals alike, as never before. Every new generation of defence technology costs two to three times as much as its predecessor. Every major programme runs over budget.

The Europeans, who lack the economies of scale enjoyed by the Americans, started collaborating on the most expensive, high-tech projects: combat aircraft.

But programmes such as the Tornado bomber and Eurofighter 2000, involving Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, have failed to solve the problem. Duplication of design and assembly in each partner country has inflated costs: differing needs have compromised weapon performance.

Acknowledging these shortcomings, European governments began discreetly to encourage their national defence industry champions to combine forces. An extraordinary number of joint-venture deals have already been done.

What those agreements show is that despite the French political desire to reinforce links with Germany, the industrial axis is Franco-British. This partly reflects the limited scale and restricted out-of-area capability of German forces in the past, as well as constraints on German arms exports.

Aérospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace, formerly Deutsche Aerospace, have combined their helicopter businesses to create Eurocopter. Now they are talking about merging their missile businesses, and more.

But Britain's GEC, piloted by that wily old strategist Lord Weinstock, is well ahead of the game. With a former French Defence Secretary, Aly Giraud, on his main board, Lord Weinstock has set up a string of businesses with former French rivals. Prominent among them are Matra Marconi Space in satellites; IJVC Horizon, the prime contractor on a three-nation frigate programme; and GEC-Thomson Airborne Radar, which is intended to refit the Eurofighter and its French equivalent, Rafale, in 10 or 15 years' time.

MoD must use its buying power more effectively

British Aerospace is pursuing its naval ambitions through a 50/50 joint venture with the Anglo-French software group Sema. However, the consolidation process has become bogged down recently in battles over technology, ownership and national control.

The Mulhouse accord will break that logjam. For it brings into the open a responsibility that Britain's Ministry of Defence has long sought to evade: procurement decisions will determine the alliances that reshape Europe's defence industry. Without a coherent industrial strategy at the MoD, British companies will be at a profound disadvantage to their French peers and their German would-be rivals.

That is why two of the most powerful watchdog committees in the House of Commons, Trade and Industry and Defence, have decided to launch a joint inquiry into defence procurement.

Many people in the MoD remain in thrall to the United States and are deeply distrustful of European alliances. Yet there are signs that some officials, and indeed some ministers, are at last waking up to the dangers. Last November Roger Freeman, the newly appointed Minister of State for Defence Procurement, called a meeting to discuss procurement with his continental counterparts.

As a result, Dr Malcolm McIntosh, Britain's civil service chief of defence procurement, is engaged in a series of discussions with Henri Conze, the French procurement chief and close associate of the French Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, and Jörg Schönbohm, the permanent secretary at the German Procurement Ministry. For whatever other virtues it may have, the transatlantic alliance with the United States has been of limited value to Britain's defence equipment makers.

With consolidation in the US arms industry well advanced, there are fears that in any future transatlantic collaboration, British companies will be offered only a minor role. There is nowhere to turn but to Europe.

The arms industry has long time cycles: ten-year development programmes for a weapon system can be followed by 25 in service. Today, British Aerospace, GEC, Rolls-Royce and the rest are living off the fruits of past ingenuity and hard-won export contracts.

To thrive, let alone survive, for the next 25 years, they have to be involved in the development of new high-tech weapons systems, which Britain alone is too poor to finance.

Britain, France and Germany now agree that in principle, the new generation of European defence programmes will employ designs and components from the best source, irrespective of nationality. In the new defence industry era, winner takes all: the loser goes bust. Companies must merge, to reduce competition, or risk their survival on a single procurement decision.

French strategy, spelled out to Mr Freeman last week by M Conze, is aimed at "streamlining" European armaments producers to a core of just one, or preferably two, specialists in each main area of technology.

The French favour 50/50 joint ventures rather than the outright takeovers which Mr Freeman has been keen to encourage. They are willing to accept the price of job losses. But — unspoken subtext — they want to maintain control.

In practice, this means promoting deals with British companies, as well as German. Tactics are Machiavellian. For more than 18 months, BAe has been trying to negotiate a merger of its missiles business with that of Matra. But earlier this month, the French Government awarded Matra the contract to develop its APTGD cruise missile. Now, with a strong order book, Matra's demands for majority control are reinforced.

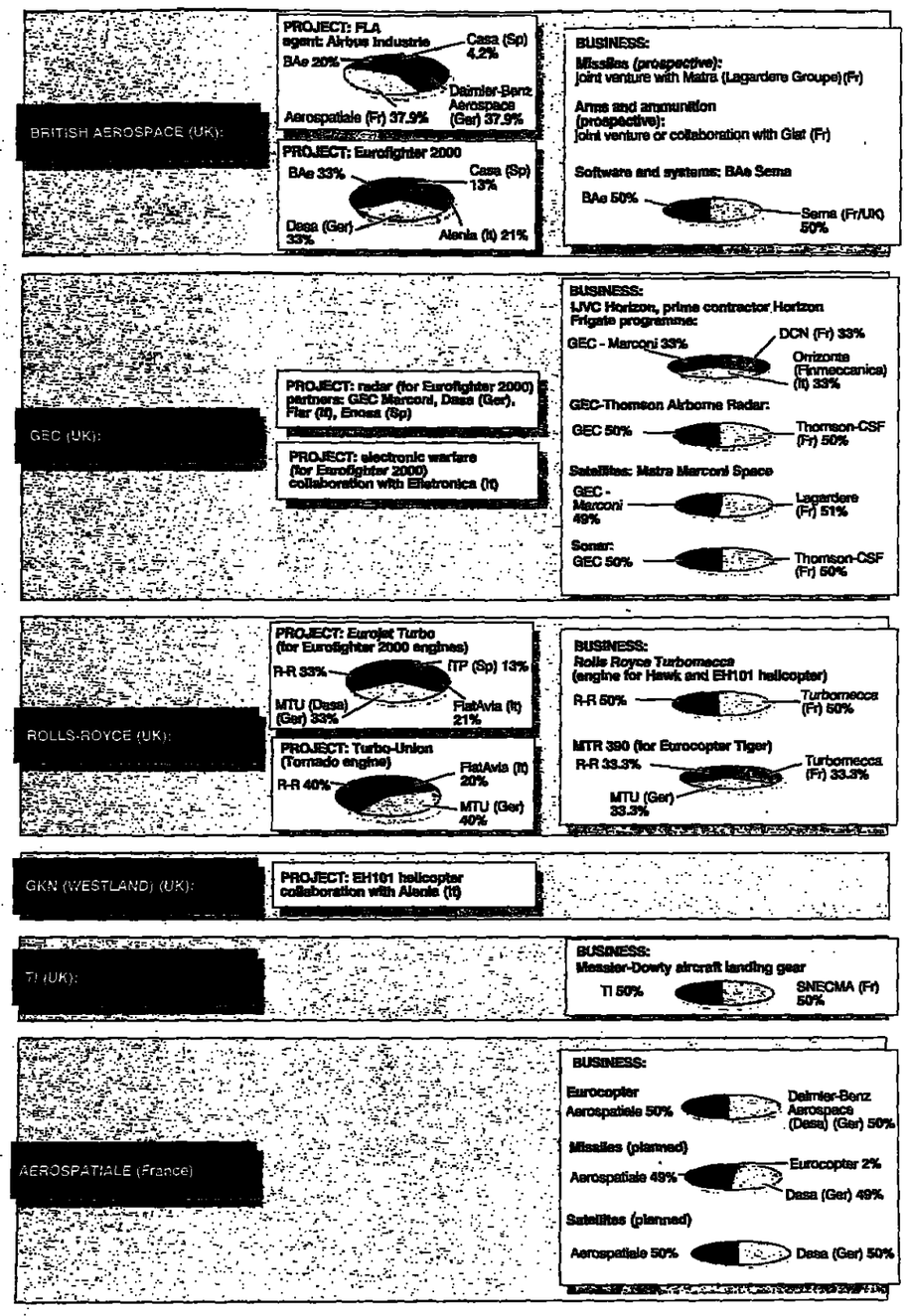
It is now clear that both France and Britain forsee a consolidation of the European armaments industry around two key projects.

The Horizon frigate programme, under way between Britain, France and Italy, will be the first in which countries will not seek to duplicate each part of the vessel within their own borders. Rather, design work will be concentrated at the contractor which is best equipped to achieve it, and common components will be bought from the lowest-cost source.

The other key programme is the pan-European transport aircraft, known as FLA, which is to be designed and built by Airbus Industrie, the European jetliner consortium. The Europeans need British participation, and a British order for 50 or so planes, to relieve pressure on their overstretched defence budgets and make the aircraft's development viable.

After intense lobbying by France and Germany, Britain has rejoined studies for the aircraft. Dr McIntosh, who had been deeply sceptical about the Europeans' ability to develop the plane on time and to cost, was apparently deeply impressed by what he saw during a visit to the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse last autumn.

This spring, Britain must decide whether to commit itself to the development of the plane itself. If Britain is to have a strong defence industry in the future, it must learn to play the Europeans, and indeed the Americans, at their own game. Taking the initiative on procurement needs is a start. For unless the MoD uses its buying power effectively to ensure that British companies get a strong position in the next generation of collaborative programmes, be they European or American, it will have no choice but to buy abroad in the future. The select committee report will make gripping reading.



Shops queue up to celebrate the gift of Christmas late

Susan Gilchrist and Sarah Bagnall find festive cheer among retailers

Now that the Christmas term is over, it is time to assess the retailing class of 1994. Glancing through the end-of-term reports, it is clear that shareholders may be asking awkward questions of some pupils, while others will be congratulated with gold stars. But overall the results were not as bad as feared.

The doom merchants had been on the rampage before Christmas. The unpalatable combination of two budgets, two hikes in interest rates and unseasonably warm weather in the autumn hardly laid the foundations for a truly festive season. But the pessimists were largely proved wrong, the exceptions paying the price with plunging share prices and reduced profit forecasts. Christmas came late, but for most it did come.

Bottom of the class was Kingfisher, once considered the analysts' pet. The group was dragged down by a dire performance from Comet, which suffered a near 11 per cent slump in like-for-like sales, while Woolworths could only manage a 2 per cent increase on last year's lacklustre Christmas.

Kingfisher blamed the tough competitive environment for Comet's problems, but the results of Dixons, its main rival, proved that consumers were willing to go out and buy big-ticket items such as electronic goods. Dixons delivered a 5 per cent increase in like-for-like sales.

This leaves Kingfisher starting the new term in some disarray. It may be forced to make a provision to sort out Comet and Woolworths, which analysts say could be as high as £100 million. Even B&Q, the jewel in its crown, is now under threat from J Sainsbury's designs on Texas, the number two DIY player.

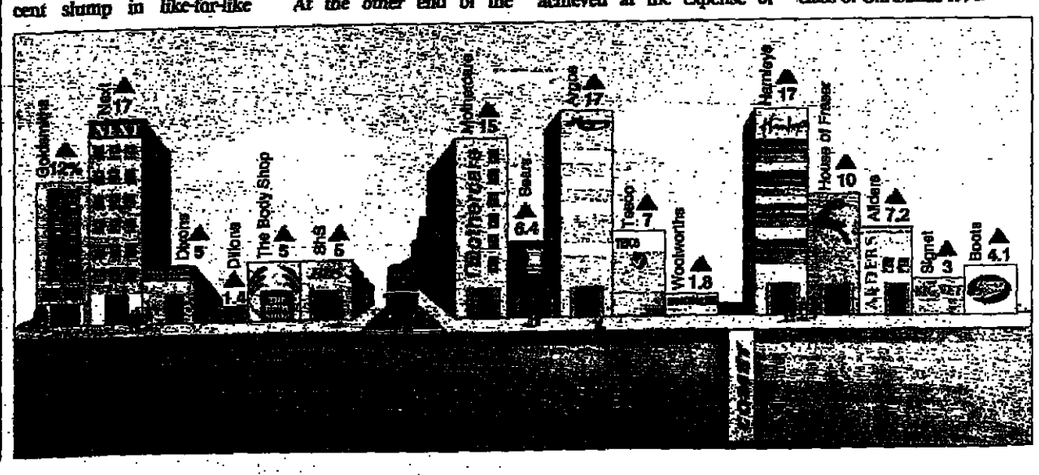
At the other end of the spectrum were glittering performances from Next and Tesco, who beat even the most optimistic expectations. The Next bandwagon just keeps rolling on despite fears that its inexorable sales growth must, if not grind to a halt, at least slow down. The Next retail chain increased sales 17 per cent, while sales from the Directory rose 35 per cent. Tesco had its best Christmas, lifting underlying sales 7 per cent in December, a figure unheard of in the food retailing industry since the halcyon days of the 1980s.

Argos, Storehouse, Lloyds Chemists, Body Shop and Goldsmiths also pleased the City. The crucial question is whether all this sales growth was achieved at the expense of margins, an unfortunate feature of last year's Christmas trading period. The answer appears to be no. Most retailers managed to hold, if not, increase margins despite some aggressive pricing.

However, it was not universal. Sears suffered a slight erosion in margins in the second half, a fact that took the shine off an otherwise commendable 6 per cent rise in Christmas sales.

House of Fraser was another casualty. Margins were hit by deep discounting on unsold winter clothing after the unusually mild autumn. The group, which only came to the market last April, was forced to issue its first profits warning.

Other clothing retailers may have also found it difficult to make up the ground lost in the autumn. A clearer picture will emerge when Marks and Spencer and Burton issue their trading statements next week. They will have to deliver impressive results to beat the best of the class of Christmas 1994.



STATE RAIL

Equipment and Spare Parts — Paxman Engines

SUPPLY SPECIFICATION NO. 0800144

Tenders closing at 10.00am on Wednesday February 1, 1995 are invited for the supply of genuine spare parts, in accordance with the above specification for Paxman diesel engines which power XPT inter and intra state long distance passenger trains. The supply specification will cover an initial supply period of three years, with an option to extend that period by a further two years.

Copies of the specification (AUD$100.00 per set non-refundable — payment is by cheque only, in Australian Dollars, to be made payable to State Rail Authority) are obtainable from Room 1007, 10th floor, Transport House, 11-31 York Street, Sydney 2000, Australia between 8.30am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

Further enquiries regarding obtaining a copy of the specification, telephone +61 2 224 4024, Fax +61 2 224 4753.

All commercial and/or technical enquiries should be directed to Mr Mal Ackerman, telephone +61 2 224 2038, Fax. +61 2 224 2857.

GAI : 449824

هكذا من الأصل

Don't read this. You'll just lose interest.

(Make more of your surplus cash with a Barclays Business Deposit. From a Business Premium Account to a Treasury Deposit the larger the sum the higher the rate of interest, even if it's only for 24 hours. So phone your local branch now.)

BARCLAYS

BUSINESS DEPOSITS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
0895 259 763

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grobal Asset	156.00	165.10	...	0.27
Grobal Equity	326.67	341.10	...	2.76
Grobal Euro	163.28	264.40	+ 0.30	0.44
Grobal Eqd Bal	106.90	110.80	...	3.66
Grobal Gil	72.09	74.31	...	0.00
Grobal Japan	167.90	177.70	- 2.10	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
0203 553 231

General Acc	512.80	544.70	- 2.40	2.87
General Inc	461.40	490.30	- 2.10	2.87
UK Growth Acc	345.10	367.20	- 1.50	3.02
UK Growth Inc	326.30	351.40	- 1.50	3.02
Higher Inc Acc	653.56	695.30	- 1.66	4.11
Higher Inc Inc	377.70	401.90	- 0.96	4.11
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	161.10	171.20	+ 0.20	8.06
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	89.29	95.00	+ 0.09	8.06
Nth America	257.80	274.30	+ 1.40	0.00
Far East	326.00	346.90	- 5.00	0.17
Europe	258.16	275.70	+ 0.40	0.80
Intl Invest	68.31	72.67	- 0.41	3.19
Brit Freonds Acc	39.32	104.80	- 0.20	4.86
Brit Freonds Inc	72.12	76.73	- 0.16	4.86
Global Opps	80.22	85.35	+ 0.06	0.38
Balanced Acc	52.02	55.35	- 0.19	3.11
Balanced Inc	50.75	53.99	- 0.19	3.11

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	125.80	133.50	- 0.10	7.89
High Inc Equity	154.78	165.00	+ 0.40	4.76
Worldwide Bond	259.20	275.00	+ 0.80	5.62
Capital Growth				
American Growth	273.30	292.80	+ 0.90	.76
Asian Pacific	297.90	306.30	- 1.80	...
Assets & Earnings	249.20	265.10	+ 0.40	2.96
Commdty & Energy	104.40	111.10	+ 1.60	...
Euro Capital Inc	127.80	136.00	+ 0.20	.71
(Accum Units)	136.30	145.70	+ 0.30	.71
General	218.20	233.20	+ 0.60	2.33
Japan	121.40	129.10	- 2.10	...
Mastermind	134.20	143.50	...	1.07
UK Growth Opp	115.50	123.50	- 0.20	2.60
US Emerging Cos	132.20	141.40	+ 0.50	...
Income & Growth	367.40	392.90	+ 0.90	3.30
Ethical	65.46	69.86	...	3.66
International	108.90	116.50	- 0.50	.80
Dividend & Growth	57.81	61.50	+ 0.10	4.57
Global Gwth & Inc	68.20	70.50	+ 0.05	2.61

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
031 220 0733

Un Small Cos	216.26	216.91	- 1.00	...

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	42.75	44.43	+ 0.15	0.70
Cash	50.27	50.27	+ 0.01	4.48
European	107.28	112.10	+ 0.50	...
Extended	942.40	218.15[5]	+ 1.30	1.03
Extra Income #	47.29	49.74	+ 0.20	6.07
Far East Emrg Eco	103.80	110.40	+ 0.10	0.07
Fixed Interest #	22.46	23.51	+ 0.01	0.79
Fixed Inc Tst	107.70	112.50	...	0.95
Japan	174.70	182.80	...	1.06
Latin American	55.41	58.15	- 0.54	0.03
Pacific	86.33	88.88	- 0.26	0.38
Property Shars	69.04	69.02[5]	- 0.28	2.17
UK Emerging Cos	61.11	64.15[5]	- 0.05	1.88
A Growth	42.21	44.84	- 0.13	2.51
Aber World Pos #	68.43	69.82	- 0.21	2.35
Ethical	58.52	62.46[5]	+ 0.17	2.81
Aberdeen Gtt Inc #	48.78	48.78[5]	+ 0.01	7.80

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
031 549 3232

British Growth	85.70	70.98[5]	...	2.72
British Income	77.51	82.48[5]	+ 0.05	3.44
Select Portfolio	81.75	86.97[5]	+ 0.25	...

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
0453 395 958

Andy Income	72.07	76.47	- 0.11	2.65
Income Builder Inc	65.46	69.86[4]	- 0.13	3.04

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
FA dlg: 0793 610 388 Client dlg: 0793 514 514 -

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	217.70	232.70	- 1.70	3.35
Overall	368.10	408.50	- 2.30	2.02
Balanced	644.60	688.60[5]	- 4.10	2.68
Accumulator	121.85	512.85	- 10.80	3.20
Income Trusts				
American Income	46.12	49.39	+ 0.06	3.61
High Income	371.10	396.70	- 2.60	3.89
Equity Income	269.50	284.00[5]	- 1.50	3.72
High Yield	225.90	241.30	- 2.00	6.22
Gilt Securities	92.30	94.10[5]	...	8.22
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	139.00	148.50	+ 0.40	0.47
European Growth	32.92	35.06	- 0.08	0.91
International	161.30	161.70[5]	- 1.09	0.20
Japan	201.40	214.80[5]	- 2.70	0.01
Pacific	361.10	386.00[5]	- 4.80	0.01
Spec of Americs	468.00	498.70[5]	- 1.80	0.54
Wkwide Asset Val	45.24	48.36	- 0.30	0.25
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	488.10	522.80[5]	- 3.80	2.44
Core & Gilt	41.67	44.54	- 0.21	5.21
Smaller Cos	168.60	171.50[5]	- 0.16	1.29
2nd Smaller Cos	153.40	162.90	...	1.40
Recovery	126.40	132.20	- 0.59	1.51
Mid Min & Cstly	148.10	155.10	+ 0.50	0.76
Assoc Earnings	326.26	348.80[5]	- 2.40	1.83
Technology	167.40	177.40	- 0.20	0.01
Uk Special Sits	424.00	453.20	- 2.30	1.91

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0293 536 911

Emerald Out Perm	94.80	98.48	...	3.04
Founding Pert Perm	59.44	61.75	...	2.29

BSK-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0053

Capital	67.58	71.89[5]	- 0.27	1.95
International	61.10	65.00[5]	...	...

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
031 222 4242

Americas	268.90	286.00	- 1.40	...
Bond	107.80	113.50[5]	+ 0.30	7.32
Pan Pacific Cap	93.95	99.85[5]	- 0.15	1.50
Shire & Gen #	63.80	67.85	- 0.18	5.58
Far East	211.80	224.50[5]	+ 0.60	0.52
Euro Small Cos	95.80	102.20	+ 0.20	0.67
Income Growth	334.60	357.10[5]	- 0.70	4.44
Japan	304.60	323.60	- 2.40	...
Japan Aggressive	72.45	77.43	- 1.61	...
Pacific	93.85	99.76	- 0.61	0.61
UK Smlr Cos	48.98	52.17[5]	+ 0.02	1.80
Japan Fd	680.00	720.00	+ 13.10	...
Mngd Fd	164.92	175.40	- 0.40	3.09

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
071 489 9673

Bal S Deals	220.80	236.90	...	1.20
Capital Gains	105.40	110.80	...	2.42
Warner Opps	173.30	182.50	...	0.44

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
081 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Stk Inv Pd Inc	325.40	338.00	- 0.40	3.12
European Gth Inc	85.92	90.05[4]	- 0.07	7.94
Exempt	78.11	75.01	+ 0.13	4.40
Financial	68.70	73.40	+ 0.27	4.40
Gilt	435.70	458.40	+ 0.50	2.55
General	258.95	278.60	+ 0.40	2.81
Property	247.00	264.10[5]	...	5.27
Taxation	169.70	181.50[5]	+ 0.20	2.53
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	158.28	160.20[5]	...	5.22
Extra Income	112.10	119.80	+ 0.10	4.34
Gilt & Fxd Int	85.78	87.85	- 0.01	8.54
Income	492.00	526.20	+ 0.30	4.39
Income & Gr Inc	86.45	84.49	+ 0.06	4.97
Int Income	58.91	62.57[5]	+ 0.01	3.75
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	111.50	119.50	...	2.71
Income	115.50	123.50	- 0.20	1.35
Recovery	390.70	417.90	+ 0.40	2.85
Smlr Cos Inc	42.32	45.28	+ 0.07	1.96
Special Sits	262.20	280.50	+ 0.30	1.96
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	121.60	129.00	+ 0.50	0.70
Asia Pac	236.00	251.10	+ 2.40	2.42
Euro Inc	145.20	154.50[5]	+ 1.50	2.42
Euro Gwth Inc	143.70	152.40	+ 1.00	0.65
(Accum Units)	153.80	163.10	+ 1.00	...
Japan & Gen Inc	175.50	183.70	- 3.80	...
Japanese Units	175.50	186.80	- 3.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	80.59	84.84	- 1.81	...
Low Yield Inc	161.30	171.10	- 0.70	0.13
Worldwide	159.60	169.30[5]	- 0.70	0.76

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
081 668 9002

American Growth	90.00	95.65	+ 0.44	...
Amer Smlr Cos	126.70	135.00	+ 0.80	...
Convertibles	53.08	56.77[5]	- 0.01	5.70
Eastern	234.10	253.70	- 2.20	0.10
Equity Income	84.45	89.80	+ 0.09	4.00
European Growth	252.10	268.00	+ 0.10	1.00
Far East	228.00	222.00	+ 0.70	0.20
Gilt	71.12	75.34	+ 0.15	0.50
General Fund	69.92	83.10[5]	+ 0.10	0.20
Global Bond	117.30	125.70	+ 0.40	2.81
Global Growth	197.30	211.10	- 2.90	...
Japan Fd	175.00	186.00	- 1.70	...
Japan Smlr Cos	175.00	186.00	- 2.00	...
Pacific Basin	74.95	83.10	+ 1.54	...
Recovery	122.50	132.40	- 0.30	1.89
Special Sits	225.20	241.50	- 0.50	1.80
Tokyo Trust	79.45	84.53	+ 0.05	1.49
UK Growth	82.05	87.75	+ 0.06	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	78.07	79.55	- 0.34	1.19

BLACKSTOCK FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
071 280 2800

American Growth	73.51	78.20[5]	...	...
Euro Growth	52.53	55.86	...	...

BRIAN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
071 235 5421

Capital Inc	163.60	174.00	- 1.10	1.61
Growth	81.28	86.53	+ 0.15	3.97
Income	202.70	216.80[5]	- 0.80	3.21
Recovery	42.26	45.20	- 0.06	2.45
Special Sits	80.34	84.59	- 0.29	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
071 623 6200

Balanced Growth	99.82	105.63	+ 0.13	1.97
Balanced Income	112.31	118.74	+ 0.15	1.97
Capital Growth	90.78	105.99	+ 0.14	1.29
Fixed Int Gilt #	74.05	78.46	+ 0.19	4.89
Fixed Int Gilt Inc	40.78	43.21	+ 0.10	...
Income	131.73	138.46	+ 1.25	...
International	134.19	142.21	+ 1.26	...
Managed Bond Inc #	24.97	26.50	+ 0.03	7.53
Managed Bond Acc	25.87	27.44	+ 0.03	7.53
Property	119.51	115.85	+ 0.26	...
Taxation	115.66	122.39	- 1.21	...
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	150.28	160.20[5]	...	5.22
Extra Income	112.10	119.80	+ 0.10	4.34
Gilt & Fxd Int	85.78	87.85	- 0.01	8.54
Income	492.00	526.20	+ 0.30	4.39
Income & Gr Inc	86.45	84.49	+ 0.06	4.97
Int Income	58.91	62.57[5]	+ 0.01	3.75
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	111.50	119.50	...	2.71
Income	115.50	123.50	- 0.20	1.35
Recovery	390.70	417.90	+ 0.40	2.85
Smlr Cos Inc	42.32	45.28	+ 0.07	1.96
Special Sits	262.20	280.50	+ 0.30	1.96
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	121.60	129.00	+ 0.50	0.70
Asia Pac	236.00	251.10	+ 2.40	2.42
Euro Inc	145.20	154.50[5]	+ 1.50	2.42
Euro Gwth Inc	143.70	152.40	+ 1.00	0.65
(Accum Units)	153.80	163.10	+ 1.00	...
Japan & Gen Inc	175.50	183.70	- 3.80	...
Japanese Units	175.50	186.80	- 3.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	80.59	84.84	- 1.81	...
Low Yield Inc	161.30	171.10	- 0.70	0.13
Worldwide	159.60	169.30[5]	- 0.70	0.76

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
081 668 9002

American Growth	90.00	95.65	+ 0.44	...
Amer Smlr Cos	126.70	135.00	+ 0.80	...
Convertibles	53.08	56.77[5]	- 0.01	5.70
Eastern	234.10	253.70	- 2.20	0.10
Equity Income	84.45	89.80	+ 0.09	4.00
European Growth	252.10	268.00	+ 0.10	1.00
Far East	228.00	222.00	+ 0.70	0.20
Gilt	71.12	75.34	+ 0.15	0.50
General Fund	69.92	83.10[5]	+ 0.10	0.20
Global Bond	117.30	125.70	+ 0.40	2.81
Global Growth	197.30	211.10	- 2.90	...
Japan Fd	175.00	186.00	- 1.70	...
Japan Smlr Cos	175.00	186.00	- 2.00	...
Pacific Basin	74.95	83.10	+ 1.54	...
Recovery	122.50	132.40	- 0.30	1.89
Special Sits	225.20	241.50	- 0.50	1.80
Tokyo Trust	79.45	84.53	+ 0.05	1.49
UK Growth	82.05	87.75	+ 0.06	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	78.07	79.55	- 0.34	1.19

BLACKSTOCK FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
071 280 2800

American Growth	73.51	78.20[5]	...	...
Euro Smlr Cos	52.53	55.86	...	...

BRIAN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
071 235 5421

Capital Inc	163.60	174.00	- 1.10	1.61
Growth	81.28	86.53	+ 0.15	3.97
Income	202.70	216.80[5]	- 0.80	3.21
Recovery	42.26	45.20	- 0.06	2.45
Special Sits	80.34	84.59	- 0.29	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
071 623 6200

Balanced Growth	99.82	105.63	+ 0.13	1.97
Balanced Income	112.31	118.74	+ 0.15	1.97
Capital Growth	90.78	105.99	+ 0.14	1.29
Fixed Int Gilt #	74.05	78.46	+ 0.19	4.89
Fixed Int Gilt Inc	40.78	43.21	+ 0.10	...
Income	131.73	138.46	+ 1.25	...
International	134.19	142.21	+ 1.26	...
Managed Bond Inc #	24.97	26.50	+ 0.03	7.53
Managed Bond Acc	25.87	27.44	+ 0.03	7.53
Property	109			

صحذا من الاصل

Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
827	397½	Abbey Nat	433	– 1	4.5	14.6
314	233	Allied Irish	283	– 5	4.8	10.1
279½	171	Aus & NZ	185	+ 1	6.5	*
3360	2462½	Bank America	2650	– 50		
247	177½	Bank Scotland	239½	– 2½	3.3	11.3
648	457	Barclays	587	– 7	3.6	14.2
399	295	Bk of Ireland	356	– 2	4.8	8.9
2812½	2282½	Chase	2360½			
285½	203	Close Bros	268	– 3	4.3	9.9
5150½	3151½	Commercial	5150½	– 96½	6.2	
1295½	1056½	Cst Ind Kpr Y	1175	– 6½	6.5	
5344½	4270½	Deutsche Bk	5257½	+40½	2.3	
1315½	750	Espirito Santo	781½	–	4.9	3.9
98	57	First Nat Fin	68	– 1	2.8	*
1549½	1152½	First Russ Y	1337½	– 19½	0.4	*
470	269	Hambros	345	– 7	7.5	15.2
1113	868	HSBC	963	– 13	4.8	9.3
1133	823	HSBC HK	924	– 13	4.8	9.2
643	383	Joseph (L)	512	+ 2	7.1	*
880	458	Kleinwort Ben	512	+ 2	7.1	*
822	421	Lloyds	477½	– 9½	5.1	9.3
3080	2188	Morgan Gren	2196½		0.8	*
79	50	Nat Bnk	68	– 1	1.8	18.5
1558	377	Nat W Bk Scot†	1388	– 2	4.4	9.4
1574	1058	Rbs Trust	1436	– 2	1.6	13.1
1458	1043	Schroders NV	1310	– 5	1.8	12.0
114	75	Singer & Fried	109		4.8	11.0
399	233	Standd Chart	283	– 6	3.0	9.0
291	197	TSB	265	– 1	5.1	*
1612	569	Westpac Bk	746	+ 8	3.7	13.6
5185	3512½	Wells Fargo	5125½	+30½	1.6	
260	194	Wstpac	245	+ 1	2.5	11.4
369	283	Wstrust	295	–	8.0	14.4

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
1035	798	Arcut Hldgs	957	– 1		
295	246	Bass	265	– 2	5.1	12.1
286	238	Bellhaven	261	– 2	5.1	12.1
181	142	Burgmast Brwt	173	– 1	3.7	14.5
96	49	Chrgate P 'A'†	156	– 3	3.2	*
96	49	Chrgate Brewing	96	+ 1	3.2	*
344	242	Gr Nth 'A'†	262		3.9	14.6
511	388	Greenalls Grp	511		3.9	20.7
520	452	Greene King	520		3.1	14.4
265	208	Hardy Hanson	264		4.6	*
170	132	Ind Cstl	164		3.2	11.9
3573	3125	Nat J	3420	+ 20	1.8	18.8
246	186	Macallan(I)	244	+ 1	2.4	14.9
314	255	Morlnd Prop	307		2.9	17.3
563	448	Morland†	563	–	2.9	13.9
10½	6½	Pennycrsd	7		3.6	*
288	208	Regent Inns	265	– 2	2.1	24.9
1660	1000	SA Brewries	1405	– 35	2.1	21.9
1110	670	Scot & Nwc	910	– 3	5.4	12.9
911	724½	Wellhouse Gp	874	– 17	1.7	36.1
677	494	Whitbread A	666	– 11	4.3	13.2
688	488	Whitbread Gt	653	– 3	3.4	12.5
2880	148	Yates (Nwc)	2815	– 4	2.3	16.0
538	448	Young '&'	493		4.8	15.6

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
295	130	Abbey†	135		4.9	9.6
250	148	Allen†	154	– 1	4.5	14.4
164	64½	Amec	66		5.7	36.1
165	67	Anderson Sykes	68			
333	233	Ashtead	315	+ 3	1.7	28.2
197	101	Avenside	184		5.3	12.2
41	26	Bailey (Brn) Cm	26		2.5	21.4
2	1½	Barnes	1½			
282	197	Barratt Dev	268	– 1	4.4	13.1
168	122½	Beeson Hamm	156	– 3	5.4	9.9
304	179	Bellway†	295	+ 6	4.5	11.6
38	31	Bellwork	34			17.8
353	235	Berkeley Grp	338	+ 8	2.5	11.4
213	110	Bett Bros	210	– 2	3.2	9.6
355	218	Bett (Harry)	288		3.6	11.2
208	35	Blandine Hld	190		1.9	
238	158	Br Bldg & Eng	152		6.5	8.5
1075	715	Bryant	1027	+ 1	5.1	13.8
195	145	CALA	153		3.3	14.5
54	31	Campbell & Arn	34			
82	44	Clarke T	52	+ 1	3.0	44.1
17½	10½	Cookson	15	– 2½		
133	105	Countryside	105		5.1	*
83	73	Crest Nicholson	78	+ 3	2.6	14.5
83	63	Cruden	64	– 2	4.5	12.4
37	17	Edmund Hdgs	18		2.1	*
274	223	Ec Recap	223		5.1	11.0
74	54	Galliford	63		4.3	
112	87	Gibbs & Dandy	87		3.8	
253	203	Glenrose (NU)	203	+ 3	2.1	14.8
121	87	Gleeson (Mjh)	87		2.3	20.2
188	121	Hawtin Plc	160	+ 3	3.8	17.7
138	98	Hemlo-Stuart	146		2.5	16.2
19	9	Higgs & Hill	18		3.5	
19	8	Holland Hldgs	18		5.5	17.7
6	2	Hollis	2			
204	164	Kier	197	– 1	4.4	12.4
284	204	Lilley (J)	214	– 1	5.3	19.3
104	90½	Lilley 6.4% Cv Pf	99½		6.5	
115	104	Lon Clubhse	104		5.5	
13	7	Lovell (Tj)	12		2.4	8.4
155	106	Mcalpine (J)	155		5.3	*
154	96	McAlpine & Co	126		4.8	28.1
79½	56	Mcdnnr & Sn	79			
154	94	Mcknzie Smlwd	126			
88	58	Mowlem (J)	86		2.3	13.6
1660	1450	Ocean	1655	– 2	3.4	12.0
64	36	Pdc	64		4.3	9.8
2175	1400	Persimmon	2050	+ 50	0.5	9.2
311	222	Pilkington	311		5.1	14.6
344	268	Pochin (Hldgs)	344		5.1	14.3
191	98	Ransomes	98		5.0	10.2
138	98	Rmc	134	– 5	4.7	13.4
88	65	Rugby Group	86		3.5	20.3
1170	813	Rugby Port	1170	+ 5	2.6	14.5
1030	800	Scottish Hydro	1030		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Scottish Power	1000		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Scottish Pwr	1000		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Scottish Wstrn	1000		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Southern Elect	1000		5.3	17.7
909	804	Yorkshire Elec	909		5.3	17.7

BUILDING MATERIALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
27	12	Albrighton†	14		4.5	23.5
341	283	Anderson	341		2.2	*
89½	67½	Armstrong Grt	70		2.8	26.2
283	274	Bpb Indl	310	– 2	3.4	15.9
163	93	Bpb Paper Hld	133	– 1	3.2	12.7
84	58	Bardon Hall	74½		6.2	7.2
288	208	Barlow Hld	273	– 1	6.2	12.2
276	215	Blue Circle	276	– 6	5.1	16.5
117	73	Brdon Plc	73	– 2	7.9	20.5
354	128	Br Dredging	350	– 3	2.9	17.7
44	21	Cmb Mtnwrl Rdy	41		4.5	14.1
228	114	Caradon	218		6.5	13.3
265	224	Caradon A	244	– 1	4.5	16.2
215	114	Caradon B	122		7.4	*
29	15	Carr (A)	19		5.3	18.9
1975	1175	Cement Rdmx	1875		5.4	16.5
155	105	Cmb	153		3.3	14.5
54	31	Compton & Ann	34			
82	44	Clarke T	52	+ 1	3.0	44.1
17½	10½	Cookson	15	– 2½		
133	105	Countryside	105		5.1	*
83	73	Crest Nicholson	78	+ 3	2.6	14.5
83	63	Cruden	64	– 2	4.5	12.4
37	17	Edmund Hdgs	18		2.1	*
274	223	Ec Recap	223		5.1	11.0
74	54	Galliford	63		4.3	
112	87	Gibbs & Dandy	87		3.8	
253	203	Glenrose (NU)	203	+ 3	2.1	14.8
121	87	Gleeson (Mjh)	87		2.3	20.2
188	121	Hawtin Plc	160	+ 3	3.8	17.7
138	98	Hemlo-Stuart	146		2.5	16.2
19	9	Higgs & Hill	18		3.5	
19	8	Holland Hldgs	18		5.5	17.7
6	2	Hollis	2			
204	164	Kier	197	– 1	4.4	12.4
284	204	Lilley (J)	214	– 1	5.3	19.3
104	90½	Lilley 6.4% Cv Pf	99½		6.5	
115	104	Lon Clubhse	104		5.5	
13	7	Lovell (Tj)	12		2.4	8.4
155	106	Mcalpine (J)	155		5.3	*
154	96	McAlpine & Co	126		4.8	28.1
79½	56	Mcdnnr & Sn	79			
154	94	Mcknzie Smlwd	126			
88	58	Mowlem (J)	86		2.3	13.6
1660	1450	Ocean	1655	– 2	3.4	12.0
64	36	Pdc	64		4.3	9.8
2175	1400	Persimmon	2050	+ 50	0.5	9.2
311	222	Pilkington	311		5.1	14.6
344	268	Pochin (Hldgs)	344		5.1	14.3
191	98	Ransomes	98		5.0	10.2
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1030	800	Scottish Hydro	1030		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Scottish Power	1000		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Scottish Wstrn	1000		5.3	17.7
1000	800	Southern Elect	1000		5.3	17.7
909	804	Yorkshire Elec	909		5.3	17.7

BUSINESS SERVICES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
3½	1½	Anglo Ltd	3½			
118	73	Apd Hldg	73			
11	4½	Abacus†	118		5.3	
11	3½	Bailey (Cm)	4			
124	78	Black Arrow	85	– 1	8.5	7.2
13	7½	Br Bloodstock	8			24.5
13	5½	Cmb Grp	9½			14.5
157	98	Chrysalis	157		2.9	*
188	108	Cmbrdge Sci	188		3.3	22.6
157	108	Cookson	157		3.8	17.2
274	214	Abbey Gp	259	– 5	3.8	17.4
310	207	Press-Ms	309		2.6	22.1
93	38	Press & Gen	54		4.3	*
17½	7½	Penn Group	9½			
51½	5½	Redbrn	9			
120	78	Shanks & McEwan†	94	– 1	3.1	
244	174	Sinclair (Wm)	178	– 1	5.0	13.8
280	200	Wstn Mgt Int	414	+ 7		15.5

CHEMICALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
156½	113½	Allied Colloids†	118½	– 4½	2.5	16.7
730	705	Amer Ind	730		4.8	15.5
5149½	5105½	BASF Dm	5133	+29½	3.6	
787	627	Bocm	727	– 1	4.3	26.8
343	281	Brit	305	– 3	4.2	17.3
2169½	2136½	Bayer Dm50	2147½	+15½	3.1	
131	88	Blair Chems	107	– 1	4.2	16.7
240	219	Br Vita	235			
61	46	Cleavings Ln	61		4.9	31.3
63	53	Croda (W)	63		4.3	23.7
63	53	Crodafield	63	– 1	4.3	23.7
357	307	Davis	342	– 1	3.5	15.5
95	75	Dodge	101		4.4	13.2
39½	30½	Elem Colour	37½		2.5	19.5
118	110	Ellis&Evrd†	118		5.8	18.9
153	123	Expanded	153		6.2	16.9
2150½	2106½	Fisons	2136½	+13½	2.8	
211	155	Fluidity Chem	211		2.4	17.2
737	707	Ici	717		4.4	23.1
1111½	808	Kalon	1111½		4.9	19.5
675	545	Lawter Int	675	– 5	3.8	17.4
4	4	Mtm	4			0.7
156	108	Minorco	156		4.2	14.3
108	88	Mcleod Russel	115	+ 1	4.7	12.8
91	61	Mondrian†	88		6.5	8.9
272	204	Nthmbrlnd Mn	259½	+ 2	4.4	28.7
300	215	Oxford	300		1.8	25.6
113	85	Pharmpacific	113		4.4	13.9
157	113	Rotork	154		3.2	17.9
259½	187	Scapa	257	– 2	3.8	17.2
74	54	Synthetic Sol	74		5.4	12.3
113	74	Tarmac	113		4.4	13.9
1570	1312	Wilson Bowdn	1570	– 4	5.5	17.9
128	104	Wmpey G	128	– 4	5.5	17.9

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	PE
137	103	Alli Lchr	108	– 2	4.6	11.8
317	246	Asda†	288		2.8	16.7
186	152	Argos & Harvy	165		3.3	7.5
38	21	Associates	21		3.8	19.5
175	111	Appleyard	111		6.5	18.6
6	3½	Asn Br Grp	4½		1.3	33.9
578	495	Bss Group†	519		4.4	18.3
254	17	Booker Powerf	22½		5.6	*
455	248	Bradstr Nth	251		5.2	10.4
48	29	Bristol 'A'	29		3.1	11.8
370	288	Bunzl	368		4.5	19.6
31	15	Bridgend Gp	15		1.7	78.9
31	18	Bsl Fdings	18	+ 1	3.1	
71	48	Brown & Tawse	48			
39	28	Carclo†	38		6.3	
488	245	Cdpm	284	– 4	4.4	44.0
236	89	Capital Pict	89½	– 1½	6.7	11.4
138	88	Central Mtr	88	– 1	4.4	*
1574	1004	Dick (Ch)†	1004		3.5	12.6
3400	1970	Dunlop	2000	+ 1	4.3	10.1
138	88	Electrocomps	88		2.3	18.2
1131	1000	Electrocom Nthn	1000		4.6	8.9
4149	3000	Diploma	3000		3.5	15.9
1754	1249	Landau	1500	– 2	5.6	37.2
1175	1000	Foster Clarkson	1000	+ 1	3.1	15.8
1000	800	Fyffes Group	1000	+ 1	2.6	20.0
1000	800	Gkn & Cornwall†	1000	+ 1	3.1	14.5
1000	800	Grnsbury†	1000	+ 1	3.1	17.8
1000	800	Gkn Wt	1000	+ 1	3.1	18.9
1000	800	Gkn Wt Cnvt†				

هكذا من الاعلى

INFOTECH

Built according to our instructions

Computer companies are selling off their production facilities to concentrate on product development and marketing, David Hewson reports

Most people who buy personal computers plump for one of the big, familiar names such as IBM, Apple, Compaq and Dell — companies which, in the words of marketing people, carry strong "brand equity" for good technology and quality products at the right price.

What few customers realise is that a large part of their PC, perhaps the entire machine, may never have been near a factory bearing the name stamped on its box. Many companies in the electronics business — from PC and work station makers to cellphone and hi-fi firms — are coming to the conclusion that their talents may lie in designing products, not making them.

IBM and Apple are already experimenting with third-party manufacturers in a big way. Some analysts believe that the shift of PCs towards mass market items makes it inevitable that the computer giants of today will, by the turn of the century, have shed the expensive business of running their own production facilities. They will have learnt to concentrate instead on the more critical factors of product development and marketing.

This is a fundamental shift for the trade. In the past, many may have bought in lines of common products, such as monitors, from other smaller companies, put their own name on the front, then added nothing to the item except an extra 15 per cent on the price.

They become dealers in the intellectual property of their own hardware and software designs, then pass on the completed blueprints to a third-party manufacturer who can turn out the end product in volume at short notice.

In theory, everyone wins, but one group is winning more than most at the moment — the third-party companies. One of the largest, though barely known outside the industry, is Solectron, founded in Silicon Valley in 1972.

After years of low-level manufacturing of component boards, Solectron is now on a dizzying growth curve. Its latest financial results showed net quarterly sales of £338 million, a 57 per cent increase on the same period last year. Much of the growth has come through the tactic of approaching big-name manufacturers and buying their surplus volume.

Over the past 18 months, Solectron has bought a printed circuit assembly factory from Hewlett-Packard, two IBM plants, one in France and one in North Carolina, and a circuit assembly site in Dunfermline from Philips. All are now busier than they were under their previous owners.

STEWART FERGUSON



David Pratt, managing director of Solectron, says the workforce has risen from 700 to more than 1,000 since the firm was taken over

At Dunfermline, David Pratt, the local managing director, has seen the workforce rise from 700 under Philips to more than 1,000 with Solectron. The factory makes everything from parts for upmarket hi-fi systems and cellphones to complete PCs, and lists among its blue-chip customers Motorola, IBM, AT&T and the hi-fi firm Bang & Olufsen. In California, Solectron is also a manufacturer for Apple, Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems.

Customers rarely hear of third-party manufacturing deals. The brands fear that they will not like the idea that their big-name PC was made by a company unknown to the general public. Mr Pratt is happy to quote his customer list at Dunfermline, but prefers to keep the details of what he makes for his clients secret.

By moving to outside manufacturing, technology companies can save money, streamline their engineering processes and bring products to market more quickly. They can also take advantage of some remarkable deals. Because a company like Solectron buys components for a wide range of customers at large volumes, it can often find them at a lower price than some of its big name clients.

Solectron pitches its bids on an open basis — revealing the margin it will make on the deal — and then owns the parts for the products until they are assembled and passed on to the buyer.

This relieves electronics companies of one of their big financial burdens, the cost of building up huge volumes of stock parts waiting to be turned into products.

The quality of products coming out of the larger third-party companies is, in fact, likely to be as good as anything made in a rival dedicated manufacturing plant.

Quality problems not only dismay the companies commissioning the goods but can also eat into the slender margins, which is why Solectron and its larger rivals invest heavily in quality assurance schemes which aim to out-perform any found in a dedicated manufacturing plant.

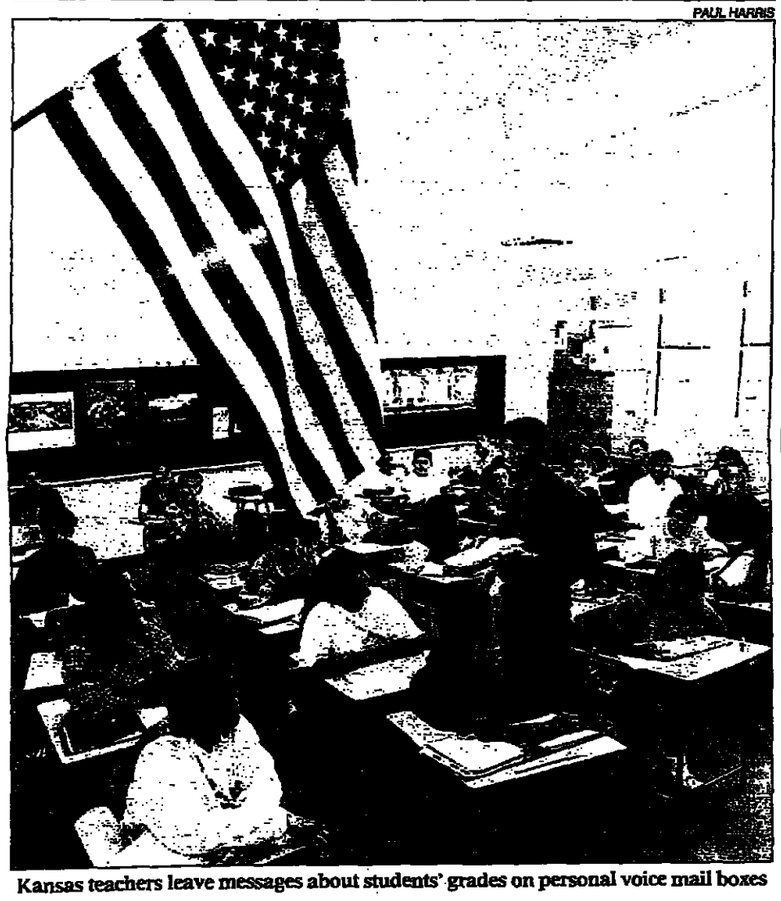
When the relationship works, it can turn one-off projects into long-term sources of business. Solectron has been working for Apple, IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Sun for a combined total of 41 years and last year generated 73 per cent of its revenue from customers of five years' standing or more.

The American manufacturing industry is now sold on the idea of outsourcing in order to concentrate on the core elements of a business. Contract manufacturing is the technology industry's simplest way to follow the outsourcing trend.

A few companies have taken the reverse direction. Cirrus Logic — the chip maker that helped to pioneer the idea of designing microprocessors but getting someone else to make them — recently entered a deal with IBM to co-own its first chip-making plant. But it is outnumbered by the companies stampeding to put manufacturing outside their businesses.

Customers may, in the end, never notice the difference, except in the low price they pay and the speed with which their chosen model becomes obsolete.

PAUL HARRIS



Kansas teachers leave messages about students' grades on personal voice mail boxes

Lost your report? Just ring the teacher

US schools are using voice mail to give parents up-to-date reports

Most children learn to live with the telephone, but how would they feel if it became an instrument to record their performance at school — like the details of this week's homework, yesterday's test marks or a temporary dip in application which might otherwise remain invisible to busy parents?

In the case of 21 schools in the American state of Kansas, children are finding out what it is like to live with their teacher permanently at the end of a telephone line.

All 950 teachers in the Blue Valley school district of Jackson County now have access to a computerised voice mail system, a telephone message facility which allows them to update parents on their child's progress and record general information on everything from the week's homework to projects, exam dates and other class activities.

By using the correct entry code, a parent can access the system from any phone at any time that is convenient. Once connected, parents are able to pick up messages about their child's performance and more general class and school information, all via the child's personal voice mail box, one of 7,000 installed on the system.

The system is controlled by a central computer capable of supporting up to 15,000 individual mail boxes. Frequent users of the system include families with working parents who may find it difficult either to visit the school or talk to a teacher on the phone during school hours. With voice mail they are able to take part in a confidential two-way communication about their child's progress, says Mike West, a sales manager with Octel Communications, the voice mail company which installed the system.

"We're not saying that voice mail is better than talking directly to someone; it is just more convenient in certain circumstances," Marsha Chappelow, assistant superintendent of the school district in Blue Valley, says.

Features include multiple messaging, allowing the teacher to make one homework announcement for all class mail boxes or a parent representative to send out simultaneous details of a meeting or social event.

It is a far cry from the school note and amnesia system of old, Linda Turner, a parent in the district, says. "Trying to find 15 different pieces of paper in the children's backpacks was never any fun. Now I get all the messages and I know exactly what is important."

Though that might have Big Brother connotations for the average child, in extreme cases, such as truancy, automated messaging helps to root out a problem before it becomes beyond solution.

Among options for the future, the district is looking at a special truancy tracking facility that would allow all truancies to be recorded and monitored via a special entry code. This, it seems, could also help to fund the system because state governments only pay districts for the number of days each child is in school.

But the success of voice mail in education will ultimately rely on users such as Terri Morse, a teacher at Mission Elementary School, who regards the technology as a more personalised way to talk to parents. "A lot of parents find it difficult to express themselves on paper. Voice mail can help to overcome the problem and gives us a more personal view of how parents feel."

All this, of course, assumes that mail boxes are regularly listened to, messages updated and participants speak to the teachers directly if needed. A common criticism of voice mail among the growing numbers of users in Europe is that the service often appears little better than a frustrating extension of the answerphone. Octel says that this is mainly because of lack of proper training for mailbox users.

NICK COTTAM



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Barry Fox on the changes in compact disc technology and how fun and games are taking over the once staid Philips

Action at the tips of your fingers



Live action: the old-style arcade video game Mad Dog McCree has been put on a single CD which plays on a CD-i player hooked to a domestic television set

The future for the compact disc could become clearer this year, but with a string of unexpected twists. Commercial expediency is the name of the game. Philips has made expensive mistakes over recent years, chief among them staying too long with loser audio, video and television systems. Now the Dutch company is more flexible and could recoup past losses from new uses for CD technology.

Even before Philips launched music CDs ten years ago, the company was planning to use the same pressed discs as read only memories — or CD-Roms — to distribute computer software to business users.

The technical performance of a CD-Rom system was judged to be more important than ease of use. So Philips also developed — for the consumer market — CD-i, the interactive compact disc system, a user-friendly player that unravels a mix of text, sound and picture images stored on the same "multimedia" disc.

The original plan was for CD-i to carry a mix of education and entertainment, but the consumer yawned at such worthiness and bought Sega and Nintendo video games instead. So 18 months ago Philips coined the slogan "Fun is the name of the game", and started selling CD-i discs that are unashamedly games.

At the same time, the computer industry changed course, too, and put multimedia and games, as well as business data, on CD-Roms for personal computers. But as people who buy CD-Roms know, the system is far from user-friendly.

Meanwhile, the once technically impossible has become possible. The CD system was designed to record hi-fi stereo sound, which needs a stream of 1.5 million bits a second. Video compression technology now makes it possible for an ordinary CD to store digital TV pictures as well as stereo sound. When care is taken with the compression process, the picture and sound quality can surpass VHS tape.

Here again, Philips's position has changed. Until two years ago, Philips rather snootily planned to put video on CD only as an integral part of edutainment. Now the Dutch company has offices in Hollywood and is investing heavily in the release of feature films licensed from the major studios.

Feature films that have been digitally compressed by Philips, such as *Apocalypse Now* and *Indecent Proposal*, and music videos such of Sting's *Ten Summoners' Tales*, show what the system can deliver. By the middle of this year all the James Bond films will be available on video CD.

Commercial allegiances are also fluid. In the 1980s, Philips formed an alliance with the Japanese giants Sony and Matsushita (Panasonic) to market CD-i as a world standard format. But both brands broke ranks. Panasonic now backs the 3DO games system in direct competition with CD-i. Sony is launching its own rival CD games system, called Play Station. All three are incompatible.

Despite these rifts, Panasonic and Sony have continued to join with Philips and support an annual conference on CD-i. Just before Christmas, at the fifth event, held in Düsseldorf, the Japanese game plan at last became clear. The clue was in a subtle change of conference title, and an added backer. The Japanese company JVC joined in and the event was renamed "the CD-i and Video CD Conference".

At Düsseldorf, it became clear that Sony, Panasonic and JVC all believe that the Japanese consumer is not yet ready for full interactivity of the type offered by CD-i. Though Sega and Nintendo have grown rich on the Japanese fervour for video games, these require very little creative thought. Takao Ihashi, Sony's general manager of multimedia, says: "Japanese consumers can't understand the benefit of interactivity. That is why we are introducing simple video CD."

The Japanese manufacturers see Video CD as a stepping stone to the future. It offers limited interactivity, much like a VHS tape, but with much faster access to selected points of a recording because no time is wasted on winding tape.

Video CD also fulfils another function for the Japanese. It neatly bridges the gap between rival and incompatible games and interactive formats: CD-i, 3DO and Commodore's CD32. Most other CD games systems can be easily modified to play Video CDs, by adding a digital video adapter. Some PCs with CD-Rom drives can also be modified to play video CDs and CD-i discs.

In practice, however, many existing CD-Rom drives are incapable of reading data from Video CDs, and most cannot cope with CD-i discs. This is creating a market opportunity for a new breed of PCs that come, off the shelf, fully equipped and ready to play both Video CD and CD-i software.

Mad Dog McCree, a new CD-i game, points the way to the future. Mad Dog was developed as an arcade video game. It relied on a bulky computer and LaserDisc player to put pictures of cowboys on a screen, which customers "shoot" with a light-sensitive gun.

Cap Disc, an American software company, has put the full programme on a single CD, which plays on a CD-i player linked to a domestic TV set. As cowboys shoot or get shot, the CD-i player searches film sequences on the disc, which take the storyline along different routes. Computer graphics generate gunshot effects that blend seamlessly with the video action.

A few minutes playing Mad Dog McCree on a CD-i system gives a far better pointer to the future of multimedia as an entertainment, educational and business tool than any written article can possibly convey. And playing Mad Dog McCree is a whole lot more fun than reading about it.

Viruses sweep the Net

Don't forget security when going online, say software experts

A new form of computer virus could reach epidemic proportions, assisted by transmission over the Internet, software security experts say. Companies are so keen to get online to the worldwide information network that they are failing to include proper security measures when they install an Internet gateway. This is leaving them wide open to hacking and to viruses that infest much of the mass of free software being transmitted over the Net.

Recently, a form of virus that mutates every time it moves — making it difficult to detect — has damaged some corporate and private systems. Such polymorphic viruses also encrypt themselves until the software to which they are attached becomes active. They then decode themselves, replicate in other parts of a computer such as the operating system or the hard disc, and re-encode ready for the next metamorphosis. A particularly virulent form is known as Dark Avenger.

A survey by the National Computing Centre says that virus infections doubled last year, and it estimates the loss to British industry as £128 million. Each virus is also estimated to infect about 142 computers before it is successfully contained, and each attack is likely to cause an average of two days' downtime.

David Emm, the technical support manager for S&S International, the software company that developed the widely used Dr Solomon Virus Scanning Software, says there has been a dramatic increase in virus infestation. "At the end of 1990, there were about 200 known viruses and last year 800 or 1,000 new ones. Now we see about 100 new viruses or variants of existing ones a month.

"In the past few months we have seen polymorphic viruses which mutate so that every infection looks different and there is no straight sequence you can scan for."

But the picture is not all gloom. For a start, Mr Emm says, success breeds failure — if a virus kills the system it infects, it stands little chance of being passed on and it attracts special efforts to eradicate it. "Most viruses in the field do very little, if any, damage — just tricks such as displaying a message, making keys bleep or making your floppy disc timeout," he says.

Added to that, most viruses are sloppily written. "They don't have to test their products or anything," he says. "A lot of viruses simply don't do what they were designed to do."

The advent of "Internet-ready" personal computers, which include software and a modem to get buyers online with just a phone call, have forced the manufacturers to take viruses seriously.

Compaq's DeskPro machines, for example, have a built-in virus detector called Safe Start. It sounds the alarm if a virus attacks the system and it checks the computer every time it is switched on to check whether any unauthorised changes have been made.

Based on the various settings of the files on the hard disc, the virus checker compares the result with a code based on "clean" software. If they do not tally, a message is screened indicating where the change has occurred. The user should then be able to use scanning software to identify any virus and kill it.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

Canadian research is looking at the 'communications device' of the future

A pager made to suit your lifestyle



A researcher measures the acoustic properties of advanced personal hands-free devices

Prepare to wear your mobile communications device. In the future, you won't carry a mobile phone or even a futuristic personal communicator in your hand because it could be part of your daily ensemble.

At least that is the prediction of Bell-Northern Research (BNR) — joint research and development subsidiary of Northern Telecom and Bell Canada, the telecom giants — which has been researching wireless communication devices for the future.

Jeff Fairless, product design manager for new terminals and services at BNR's corporate design group, says that years of testing and design on devices have led his group to conclude that users will want personal, highly flexible versions of the present mobile phone and pagers.

These conclusions are part of an overall design project at BNR that has led to the development of something called the Orbitor, a pocket-size wireless device that uses advanced voice recognition and a touch-sensitive screen to deliver voice, messages and take notes.

Mr Fairless says that to succeed, devices in the future will need to be smaller and more personal than the present breed of electronic notepads.

"People attach a lot of value to a device that is personal — like an item of jewellery — so wearing a device is slightly different than carrying one," he says. "It must be functional and make a statement about the person who wears it. It must also be something that they will be comfortable to be seen with."

He cites the growing number of American teenagers buying multi-coloured designer pagers to wear as fashion items as much as communications devices.

Orbitor, though it is not yet a product, does exist as a series of specifications, as a computer simulation and a series of physical mock-ups.

In the same way that the technologies needed by the American space programme of the 1960s to put a man on the Moon were first tested in the Mercury and Gemini unmanned space missions, BNR is developing its Orbitor technologies so that they can be used, where applicable, in other, slightly less ambitious projects as they come to fruition.

In the survey, many people said there were times when they did not want to be in ready contact.

Many existing mobile phone users complained that their existing systems were too intrusive and had often embarrassed them by ringing at inopportune moments. Mr Fairless says that people want to be able to pick and choose when they are available on their mobile system and to whom they will be available.

One proposed solution to the latter is a series of personal "availability modes" on the Orbitor. If you were in a board meeting, for example, you could put the device in "meeting mode" so that you were interrupted only if telephone calls were received from certain pre-defined numbers or were designated emergency calls.

The system would digitally detect where the call was coming from, then route it either to the Orbitor or send the call to your voice mail system. Mr Fairless says this kind of choice and control is what prevents most mobile communications systems from being "personal" enough for people at the moment.

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Talent in the telecottage

Clive Couldwell reports on technological centres that provide the skills and equipment that clients and workers need

Over the past 18 months, "telecottage" centres have been busy capitalising on the technological improvements of the last five years. The idea for the centres was imported from Scandinavia in the late 1980s and there are now 130 in Britain, mainly in rural areas. They provide a communal technological workplace where facilities can be used by people or companies on a hire basis.

"We might take in a contract from a large client to do work here, or sub-contract part of that work to a small business," says Jane Berry, manager of the Wren (Warwickshire Rural Enterprise Network) Telecottage, which deals with around 50 small businesses at Stoneleigh Park.

Each telecottage has its own focus, but they provide a marketplace where the IT professional can shop for work, receive subsidised IT training and services, and use the telecottage as an agent to place work and skills in the appropriate market.

Ms Berry says: "Someone with a portfolio career, who is perhaps employed for a couple of days a week and may then work as a freelance for a range of clients for the other three, needs a workplace." For those who need to sell their skills to potential employers, or clients, the telecottage offers a cost-effective way of acquiring technology and marketing expertise.

IT skills in a teleworking environment become resources bought from an electronic pool of talent as they are needed, an approach which fits in well with the way many companies are now streamlining their IT operations, placing them under the control of other companies.

Teleworking is one way of bringing in outside skills, and is particularly useful if the right kind of know-how is in short supply. "Benefits to the worker include a better lifestyle and access to work not available locally," says David Child, who manages Teleteam UK, an employment agency specialising in setting up and overseeing international teams of teleworkers.

"Offering key staff the option of teleworking is also being seen as a competitive advantage when recruiting them," says Alan Denbigh, executive director of the Telecottage Association. With these sorts of commercial and economic pressures forcing companies to rethink how they structure their skill base, and the publicity surrounding the new concept of sharing of knowledge on the information superhighway, the idea of flexible working is proving attractive.

Ovum, the research company, predicts that by the turn of the century, American and European markets for "any computer work carried out outside company-owned premises" will have increased 30 times, from £700 million in 1992 to more than £21 billion.

Although this kind of working has not been taken up as strongly as many forecasters predicted, a growing band of IT professionals working from telecottage centres now includes programmers, systems analysts, management consultants and providers of data-entry services.

Edward Hasted, director of Ashmount Research, a software publisher, says: "When someone comes to see us, they look at our 600 sq ft of office space and ask where everyone is. We just point to the computers and the modems." The company has been recruiting teleworkers for about five years. It now employs a staff of 20. "We have met almost all of them online, rather than conventionally recruiting them through agencies," he says.

As software development becomes more complex, program functions are being split up into sets of complementary modules which will then slot together. Mr Hasted says: "It is therefore becoming more important for us to maintain a skills register that we can use to pull in the appropriate expertise." Ashmount Research's ability to recruit its IT staff online is a by-product of its business methods, but Mr Hasted says that candidates can be measured more accurately electronically.

"Our evaluations are done over a long period of time," he says. "We analyse conversations that we have about the product and the quality of the points being made, assessing whether people are trying to flaunt their knowledge, or understate it. Quite often we give them test work to do and see how it comes back."

● *Teleworker, the Telecottage Association's magazine (£3.95), runs a recruitment page for clients and employers seeking teleworkers. Contact Alan Denbigh on 0453 834874. Teleteam claims to be the only teleworking agency in the world. Agents represent the company and its members abroad.*



NEWS TEAM

Jan Kenyon, left, working on Wren's equipment with Jane Berry, the centre's manager

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GALLERIES page 36
Photographer in focus: what was it like to model for one of the century's most innovative artists?

ARTS

POP page 37
Shades of the 1970s? The Black Crowes just play it like it is, insists singer Chris Robinson



OPERA: The *Times* opera critic and fashion editor review the Miller/Armani collaboration

Mozart made to measure

Così fan tutte
Covent Garden

To play *Così fan tutte* in modern dress is a risky business. We don't really go in for true love and eternal fidelity any more. Perhaps we never did. At least we have stopped pretending now, if for no other reason than that we have seen *Così fan tutte* too often.

The risk is compounded in Jonathan Miller's new production for the Royal Opera: to imagine that these smart sophisticates in their Armani frocks would strike the attitudes demanded by the plot of the opera requires suspension of disbelief on an epic scale. In the second act the sisters are revealed to be in the fashion business, and Despina, whose function up to that point has been something of a mystery, is their assistant, not a maidservant as in Da Ponte. And this Absolutely Fabulous character requires a *bribe* to take part in the charade?

All of which having been said, and after an uneasy interval, disbelief very largely is suspended thanks to the quality of the direction, its wit and — in the last half-hour of the show — its Stygian darkness. There are some good, if queasy, laughs early on: the men going forth to war in their UN berets, blood samples (ugh!) taken before the Mesmer treatment, Fiordiligi turning wonderfully schoolmistressy in "Come scoglio", the disguised men making cool mock of their designer-hippie disguises.

But in the second half it is nervous-collapse time. The men would probably kill each other were Don Alfonso not there to separate them: Ferrando's "sincere" acting in his wooing of Fiordiligi and his macho cockiness afterwards are absolutely chilling; and even the denouement, when the disguises are revealed and we usually sigh with relief, is as black as Hades — there was not a laugh to be heard. At the final curtain all exit separately, grimly. Oh dear.

Miller's minimalist, colour-free set is permanent: the frocks change, not the scenes, and I lost count of the number of new outfits the sisters sported in the course of the 24-hour action. So the show is carried, rightly, by its superb cast. Thomas Allen's world-weary, bored Don Alfonso is a riveting character-study. His eyes glaze over with indifference as the young people go through their predictable routines, and he executes a quintessentially Millerian little dance of triumph when the offstage chorus signals the humiliating denouement. He sings the role with impeccable style.

Miller's direction suggests that the men will soon turn into Don Alfonsos, a tragedy for them, especially for Simon Keenlyside's lively, roundly-sung Guglielmo, who is over halfway there by the end. Bruce Ford, equally doomed, sings Ferrando's two arias so beautifully that the loss of "Ah, lo veggio" is all the more keenly felt; it is usually cut because tenors can't manage it, but Ford could have sung it to bits and I wish he had.

Ann Murray's dry wit and her colourful way with words made her a Despina to treasure, even if somewhat in the abstract, and Susan Graham was in fabulous voice as a scatty Dorabella. Fiordiligi holds no terrors for Amanda Roocroft's technique, but could take more in the way of shapely phrasing.

Admittedly she was hampered by Evelino Pidò's turgid conducting of "Per pietà" — indeed, Pidò took a surprisingly unsunny view of the score, making an unMozartian meal of the accompanied recitatives and generally favouring slow tempos. The orchestra was on uneasy form.

One big mystery, apart from precisely who the chorus were supposed to be: why did the officers wear elaborate wigs in the first scene and their own hair thereafter? I'm still puzzling over that.

RODNEY MILNES





Putting a little bit of chic into *Così*: Jonathan Miller (top) and Giorgio Armani

ALTHOUGH *some fashion designers turn their catwalk shows into theatre, offering costume rather than clothes in an effort to create drama — and, perhaps more importantly, to ensure press coverage — the Italian Giorgio Armani has always shied away from such needless histrionics. The clothes he designs are understated, and his fashion shows run as smooth as silk.*

As the costume designer for Jonathan Miller's modern-dress production of *Così fan tutte*, Armani has dressed the singers (male and female) in designs from his spring/summer 1995 ready-to-wear collections, fluid designs which are the epitome of no-fuss modernity, befitting Miller's no-nonsense set, which coincidentally bears more than a passing resemblance to the fashion designer's Via Bourgonuovo headquarters in Milan.

For the most part the female leads, Amanda Roocroft and Susan Graham, are dressed in elegant trouser suits (long skirts are donned when the women are beset with depression, lush ballgowns are swathed in glittering diaphanous veils for their marriages). Their suitors, Bruce Ford and Simon Keenlyside, wear Armani's signature soft tailoring, except when they are posted to battle, when they appear in military uniform accessorised with the sky blue berets of the United Nations forces. The chorus, dressed in black trouser suits and matching T-shirts, look like would-be sales assistants at the designer's Emporio Armani stores.

With *Così fan tutte*, Armani has artfully engineered the most modern of all statements — product placement. Why buy the *I Saw Così fan tutte* T-shirt, when you need only walk a hundred yards or so down the street to the designer's Covent Garden store, where you can purchase an outfit just like those modelled by the cast? Beat that, Mr Lloyd Webber.

IAIN R. WEBB

DONALD COOPER



Haute couture comes to the Garden: Thomas Allen (Don Alfonso), Amanda Roocroft (Fiordiligi) and Bruce Ford (Ferrando) in Jonathan Miller's new Royal Opera production of *Così fan tutte*

RECITAL

Hard Lieder to follow

Prégardien/Staier
Wigmore Hall

SCHUBERT'S bicentenary will be celebrated in 1997, and nobody, it seems, can wait. The Wigmore Hall has begun a tripartite survey of his music which starts by exploring the years 1811-17, continues in 1996 by spanning 1818-24 and culminates in a celebration of the composer's last two years.

The countdown began on Wednesday with a recital by a partnership of musicians who are one of the best things that has happened to Lieder in general and Schubert in particular for a long time. Tenor Christoph Prégardien and fortepianist Andreas Staier both have independent solo careers, but together the strength and integrity of their artistry lay bare the soul of Schubert for all to see.

Prégardien is a Baroque specialist and a Mozartian whose first love is Lieder. His approach to word and phrase, treating each song rather as a heightened poetry reading, reminds one of the artistry of Peter Schreier: his mobile tenor has a smoother edge without any loss of intensity. Staier's playing convinces me finally that the fortepiano is the instrument for Schubert. In so many details of timbre, qualities of resonance and velocity, Staier reveals a breadth of subtext that even the most perceptive piano performances have obscured.

All of this enabled Prégardien and Staier to pull off a rare coup. They began the evening with an early work long shunned by even the most ardent Schubertian — the epic, 20-stanza, classical Schiller ballad "Die Burgschaft" — and gripped their audience by believing once again in the dramatic detail and momentum of its narrative.

They doggedly stuck with Schiller through the first half, swinging into "Hector's Farewell", in which the alternating voices of Andromache and Hector revealed the versatility and imagination of Prégardien's tenor. Not until the ghostly "Gruppe aus den Tartarus" did they make any concessions to popular taste.

The second half was Goethe's. In the gently flexing movement of his songs of night and longing and the intensity of the Harper's songs, Pregardien and Staier prepared the ear and spirit for what could be a revelatory three years.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE: Emma Thompson's mother gets back to the stage as a Scot in Leeds; Leeds is blown apart in London

Full power of the Law

West Yorkshire Playhouse announced the details of its forthcoming season at a lunchtime bash in Prudential's London headquarters, a red castle soaring above Holborn. Drink and little things on toast were being served in a lofty pillared hall, where I exchanged pleasantries (as they say in *The Tatler*) with Timothy West, due to play the troubled MP in Alan Bennett's *Getting On*, opening in February; Barrie Rutter (*The Cracked Pot* in March), and Emily Woof (Juliet in April).

The season begins, however, with *The Winter Guest*, by Sharman MacDonald, author of the marvellous *When I Was A Girl I Used To Scream And Shout*. It will be Alan Rickman's first professional stab at direction, and to play the mother of an estranged daughter he has coaxed back to the stage, after five years away, the actress Phyllida Law.

Sooner or later an interview with Law has to name her family, so it may as well be sooner. Her husband was Eric Thompson, whose voice introduced us to Zebedee and his playmates in *The Magic Roundabout*, and her daughters are the actresses Emma and Sophie. Her son-in-law is Kenneth Branagh. Now back to her. How did her career begin?

"Oh, now you've asked me. I was going to be a doctor. I managed to persuade myself, from the depths of my ignorance, that I was dying of a disease. I was going to devote myself to curing the nation before I died.

"So I gave up everything at school that I was good at, like drawing and music, and went to Glasgow University. There I discovered that I wasn't dying of this disease."

Does she wish to name the disease? "Oh, VD, of course. In those days there was such ignorance about everything like that. In the war my delightful Aunt May, if you asked her what VD was, she'd say: 'Digging for Victory'. Oh dear. So when I discovered that I wasn't going to die I thought I'd like to be a theatre designer, because I could draw, and I went to the Bristol Old Vic School.

"In those days everyone started with a bit of technical training. If you were going to be a stage manager or anything like that you did the first year with the acting students. You did all the classes but you also worked in the theatre and then peeled off and went into theatre design or whatever it was. And I just didn't peel off. I went on acting. So I became an actress sort of by default, really."

Her career has taken her to both the Old Vics, Bristol and London, back home to Glasgow to act at the Citizens', to the Royal Court, the National and the West End. Her last role was Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Chichester, and for a few moments she talks of Shakespeare, of going with Emma to Stratford to watch Sophie in *All's Well That Ends Well*. "We cried our eyes out. Both of us with noses as big as lamp bulbs."



Phyllida Law: gloriously happy in Sharman MacDonald's new play

A moment later she says: "My favourite stupid remark is, 'I hate Shakespeare', which at home I announce regularly because my children and any of their friends go *white* with fright. They love it, you see. It's as if they were born talking it."

Doing *The Merry Wives* was a struggle. "I had very elderly parents. Well, I've had a succession of elderly parents, but the last two were on their last legs. My mother and stepfather were ninetyish, and because the Chichester peformances were in repertory I was able to go up to Scotland and come back down again. But after that I just took short jobs in films, or in telly if they weren't longer than three weeks. I couldn't have got up to Scotland if I'd been in a long run.

"Films and telly. It sounds very grand. I don't mean it to. But I couldn't do anything else, and I was very lucky to get the jobs I did get and steer a little line through the five years of their dying.

"The last thing I did on television was play a woman with early senile dementia. I marched into the office and said: 'Five years research!' So art — I mean life — had come doubling back. What am I trying to say? Art imitated life.

"That finished in August. And here I am offered this glorious job, and the only possible reason for turning it down after all these years of saying, 'I'm terribly sorry but I can't do anything of that length of time', is craven cowardice. And, as Alan Rickman pointed out: 'He's a very bad actor, Craven Cowardice.'"

"I'm playing a 70-year-old mother. My daughter's husband has just died. It's quite, in a sense, elegiac without being poetical or sad. It's rather life-enhancing, I think, but I'm very daunted about talking of that because the thing that attracted me to the play is its language. It's Glasgow, and I'm Glasgow. And Sharman's writing has the rhythms and the wonderful phrases that are absolutely familiar to me.

"I read it lying down in bed, and started to laugh. And you know how it is when you laugh lying down. It's unstoppable. If anyone had passed in the street they would have thought, 'My God, a madwoman!'"

She does not make the role sound a sad one, but in speaking of the painful events in her own life she can round off the experience with a laugh that does not negate the sorrow. Anna Neagle once described a role as 'A bit of a laugh, a bit of a tear,' and maybe that will describe MacDonald's play. It's a fair description of life, after all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

● *The Winter Guest is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill, Leeds (013-244 2111) until Feb 18*

Shocking scenes in Sloane Square

Blasted
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, SW1

THE flyer for Sarah Kane's play shows a tin-hatted soldier in some desert terrain cheerily giving the V-sign. *Jeremy Kingston writes.* This would explain the title, you think, were it not that the flyer also says the action takes place in a hotel room in Leeds. Here a middle-aged tabloid journalist will be trying to seduce his 21-year-old former girlfriend. Their world is going to fracture around them, forcing them to confront their most violent nightmares.

All will be revealed in time, you say to yourself as you climb to the top floor of the Royal Court in Sloane Square, passing a notice warning that some scenes may disturb. This usually means naked bodies and sexual acts, and we can all take those these days even if, as now seems likely, there'll be a bit of rape at some point.

At gunpoint, it turns out, but this is almost the least of what is calculated to disturb. How about homosexual rape, for instance? A chewed tongue; eyeballs for seconds; and, since hunger can make necrophages of us all, a venture into grave-robbing?

But all this — and more — is waiting for us in the play's last scenes when Leeds has been taken over by the military and a shell has blasted a hole where the window was. Here we have one explanation of the title, although another is how the journalist is left feeling after a few hours with an armed and ravenous soldier in the room.

Not that the journo himself is much cop as a human being. Kane has created, and Pip Donaghy presents, an atrociously unlovely slob. He enters the room, fag stuck in his mouth, and marches over to the minibar to pour a double gin, leaving Kate Ashfield's appleblossom-cheeked waif waiting uncertainly in the doorway. When, after much hesitation, she decides to stay, her joyful discovery of the well-sprung mattress is endearing. However, she turns out to be a touch simple and prone to fits, sweet-natured but far too naive, you might suppose, to survive the disasters that explode outside and within the room.

Kane writes vivid dialogue, skilfully paces disclosures, and is not afraid to introduce quite lengthy silent scenes. James Macdonald's tight direction sustains the tension, except somewhere around the middle when the play's intention still remains unclear. The performances are convincing, once you accept the lack of curiosity in what must be some astonishing military activity all around, and Dermot Kerrigan's smiling soldier, keen to chat of atrocities enjoyed, is chilling.

Yet the final scenes never do clarify Kane's intentions, unless these are to point to how low a desperate man will stoop. Artfully constructed and distressingly watchable, its unmitigated horrors and numbing amorality leave a sour taste in the mind.

Discover how rock was rolled in ancient Greece.



FROM PENTELIKON TO THE PARTHENON.
The chronicle of a Doric capital's journey towards the first marble Parthenon.

An exhibition of drawings by the Architect Manolis Korres which depict how the architectural wonders of antiquity were actually built.

The exhibition is open on weekdays, 10 am to 3 pm, January 27 - February 27, 1995.

Foundation for Hellenic Culture, 60, Brook St., London W1Y 1YB.
Tel.: 0171 - 499 9826

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

PIERRE BOULEZ AT 70 The batonless maestro — just about the oldest *enfant terrible* the musical world has ever known — opens the first London Symphony Orchestra concert of his touring birthday extravaganza with Stravinsky's magical *Song of the Nightingale*. Sunday's programme also includes his own *Notations I-IV*, Webern's *Six Pieces* and Bartok's Piano Concerto No 1. Daniel Barenboim makes a rare London appearance as a piano soloist.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Sun, 3pm Ⓢ

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR. Terry Hands, director emeritus of the RSC, makes his National Theatre directing debut tonight with Shakespeare's jolliest comedy. Denis Quilley stars as Falstaff; Geraldine Fitzgerald and Maureen Beattie are Mistresses Ford and Page.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Previews begin tonight, 7.15pm, opens Jan 26 Ⓢ

MARCEL MARCEAU COMPAGNIE The world's most famous mime brings his ensemble for three days only, performing his own solo pieces and an adaptation of Gogol's *The Overcoat*. Should be seen at least once in a lifetime. As part of the London International Mime Festival.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800) Tonight-Sun, 7.45pm Ⓢ

Ⓢ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**. The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (071-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE CHILDREN'S HOUR**: Clare Higgins and Harriet Walter as two schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a bratty student. Lillian Hellman's powerful drama from 1934, directed by Howard Davies.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 2.15 and 7.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE**. Nigel Hawthorne amusing as the dilapidated Lord Ogleby but his direction pretties and diminishes the play. Some clever supporting performances.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm

Ⓢ **THE DANCE OF DEATH**: Rare stage appearance by John Neville as Strindberg's infuriated husband, with Gemma Jones playing his comparably furious wife. Peter Stormare directs.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Mar 4 Ⓢ

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER**. Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm until Mar 11

☐ **FASCINATING AIDA**: The girls are back with an evening of glamour, quick wits and sharp tongues.
Garrick, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-494 5085). Final performances tonight, 8pm and Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm

LIVERPOOL: The Tate devotes its largest ever single exhibition to **Sigmar Polke**, one of the originators of "Capitalist Realism" art, post-war Germany's own particular brand of consumerist Pop art. The three decade span of "Join the Dots" shows how he has maintained his inventiveness, with his multi-media paintings and technically experimental works from the 1970s and 1980s, up to his most recent "transparent" phase.
Tate Gallery, Albert Docks (051-709 3223). Opens tomorrow, Tue-Sun, 10am-6pm. Until Apr 17 Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

THE HALLE ON TOUR: Owain Arwel Hughes takes the orchestra and the ladies of the Halle Choir on a whistle-stop schedule this weekend. The programme opens with Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, followed by Mozart's Symphony No 39 and Holst's picturesque suite, *The Planets*.
Blackburn, King George's Hall, Northgate Ⓢ (01254 55257/9): Tonight. **Leeds**: Town Hall (0532 348080): Sat. **Manchester**: Free Trade Hall, Peter Street Ⓢ (061-834 1712) Sun. All at 7.30pm.

BOURNEMOUTH AND BRISTOL: Maureen Braithwaite and Daniel Washington take the leads in a two-night concert performance of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Wayne Marshall conducts the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** and Chorus, with Hyacinth Nicholls and Wils Morgan.
Winter Gardens, Exeter Road Ⓢ (01202 297297) Tonight. **Bristol**: Colston Hall, Colston Street Ⓢ (0272 223682): Sat. Both at 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (071-638-4141) . **British Museum**: Chinese Arms and Armour; Byzantine Treasures from British Collections (071-636 1555) . **Royal Festival Hall**: It's a Pleasure!, nine contemporary artists (071-928 3002) . . **National Gallery**: The Age of Elegance (071-839 3321) **National Portrait Gallery**: The Sewells, final week; Christina Rossetti (071-306 0055) . **Richard Figan**: Poussin Before Rome (071-930 0020) **Royal Academy**: Nicolas Poussin, The Painted Page, final week (071-439 7438) **Serpentine**: Man Ray (071-402 6075) **Tate**: Works on Paper: Gainsborough to the Pre-Raphaelites (071-887 8000) . **V & A**: Warworks, Women, Photography and the Art of War (071-938 8500) . **Whitechapel**: Worlds in a Box (071-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
Ⓢ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **KILLER JOE**. Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Milam directs the original Chicago production that won a Fringe First at Edinburgh.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 11

☐ **LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST**: Jenny Agutter returns to the RSC with new cast for 16 final performances of Ian Judge's pleasing production.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891) Previews tonight, 7.15pm, tomorrow, 2pm and 7.15pm. Again Jan 30; opens Jan 31. Ⓢ

☐ **PETER PAN - THE BRITISH MUSICAL**: Ron Moody and Nicola Stapleton in a version written, composed and directed by Piers Chater-Robinson.
Cambridge, Earlham St, WC2 (071-494 5080). Final performances tonight, 7.30pm and Sat, 2.30 and 7.30pm

Ⓢ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL**: Award-winning performance from Lio Baur in Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the loves and anguish of peasant life. Theatre de Complicite began an international tour with five weeks here.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399) Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Jan 23 Ⓢ

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**. Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive revival of Kurt Weill's opera. Tom Hollander sings Macheath and words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht".
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing**: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . ☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) . ☐ **Buddy**, Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . Ⓢ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) . Ⓢ **Copacabana**, Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . Ⓢ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) Ⓢ **Grease**: Dominion (071-416 6060) ☐ **Hamlet**: Gielgud (071-494 5065) . Ⓢ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych, final week (071-836 6404) . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (071-434 0909) Ⓢ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) . . ☐ **Neville's Island**, Apollo (071-494 5070) . . . ■ **Oliver!**, Palladium (071-494 5020) ☐ **On Approval**: Playhouse (071-839 4401) ☐ **Once on This Island**, Island (Royalty) (071-494 5090) . Ⓢ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (071-369 1731) . ☐ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**: Strand (071-930 8800) ☐ **She Loves Me**, Savoy (071-836 8888) . . . Ⓢ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (071-928 7616) Ⓢ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . Ⓢ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (071-344 0055) ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (071-369 1736) . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Sant. Uma Thurman heads a cameo-strewn cast
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

LOVE, CHEAT & STEAL (18): Failed film noir from new director William Curran, with Madchen Amick, John Lithgow and Eric Roberts.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

◆ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG): The King of Hallowe'en tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy conceived by Tim Burton.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ Sat/Sun only (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** Sat/Sun only (0426 914096)

◆ **NOSTRADAMUS** (15): Life and prophecies of the 16th-century legend. Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau.
Curzon Mayfair (071-369 1720) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096)

SHALLOW GRAVE (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor

Gate Ⓢ (071-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder. Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; with Jaye Davidson. Director, Roland Emmerich.
Clapham Picture House (071-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15): Kieslowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives; a majestic climax to his trilogy. With Irène Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631) **Minema** (071-235 4225)

VANYA ON 42ND STREET (U): Absorbing film of Andre Gregory's treatment of "Uncle Vanya", caught in rehearsal by Louis Malle's cameras at a decrepit New York theatre. Wallace Shawn, Julianne Moore, Brooke Smith and George Gaynes head the fine cast.
Curzon Phoenix (071-369 1721) **Phoenix** (081-883 2233)

◆ **WES CRAVEN'S NEW NIGHTMARE** (15): Inventive riff on the "Elm Street" movies from the original's creator, director Wes Craven. With Robert Englund, Heather Langenkamp, Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor
Odeon West End (0426-915 574)

NEW RELEASES

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.
Barbican Ⓢ (071-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (071-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (071-727 5705) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

ROUGH DIAMONDS (PG): Trials and tribulations of a musically gifted cattle rancher. Bland vehicle for Jason Donovan, directed by Donald Crombie.
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666)

THE TIN DRUM (18): Volker Schlöndorff's 1979 adaptation of the Günter Grass novel has lost none of its power. With David Bennent as the stunted boy in Hitler's Europe.
Everyman (071-435 1525) **NFT** (071-928 3232)

WELCOME II THE TERRORDOME (18): Crude, despairing, inflammatory vision of the future from young black British film-maker Ngoze Onwurah.
Electric Ⓢ (071-792 2020) **Metro** (071-437 0757)

CURRENT

AMATEUR (15): Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Clunky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley.
Clapham Picture (071-498 3323) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Richmond** (081-332 0030)

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (15): Unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel from cult director Gus Van Sant.

A Man kind of woman

Jacqueline Goddard was the face in some of Man Ray's most celebrated photographs. **Guy Walters** met her

CHRIS HARRIS



Jacqueline Goddard, visiting London this week for the Serpentine's Man Ray show

Being one of history's footnotes must be harsh, especially when the history is that of Paris in the 1920s and 1930s. It is a period that is now almost mythological: a place where Picasso, Joyce, Hemingway, Braque and Pound might all be found sipping coffee in *La Coupole*. To have been party to that party would have been both fascinating and frustrating; the former because these men were immensely talented, and the latter for the same reason.

Jacqueline Goddard was one of Man Ray's models for much of this period, and as such qualifies as a footnote. But this sounds damning; there is much to learn from those who were actually there. She was born Jacqueline Barsotti in Paris in 1910, her father's work as a sculptor keeping the family financially comfortable. She met Man Ray in Montparnasse when she was 16 in 1927. He immediately asked her to pose. "My father was very jealous, and didn't want me to pose," she recalls.

> "I pointed the gun at my head and smiled. He said I could not smile"

But there was no stopping his semi-wayward daughter. She modelled many times, but never in the nude. "I was ugly. I was elegant in my day, but the rest of me was like a stick." Goddard is being modest, as the photograph below shows. A postcard was made of this Man Ray photograph. "And the day after it was published," says Goddard, "it was the fashion in Paris. All the girls wanted to have their hair back in this way."

Goddard was not Man Ray's only model. The woman who lent her back to form the famous *Violin d'Ingres* was called Kiki, who unlike Goddard was "very round; her voice was round, her laugh was round, and her movements were round. She was not beautiful at all. But she had a knack of doing herself up that was absolutely fabulous." Goddard denies that there was any rivalry between Man Ray's models: "Not at all. I even sent girls to him."

Man Ray's career, now being celebrated by a show at the Serpentine Gallery, involved a constant struggle between his love of painting and his obviously innovative photographic style. His native America had not treated him well, so he had left for Paris in 1921, where he found that photography was the only means of getting by. Did Man Ray feel trapped in this medium? "It may be so," says Goddard. "But I know that he enjoyed taking photographs. He pretended not to, but don't you believe it. He really wanted to make films, but didn't have enough money."

Goddard paints a picture of Man Ray that is witty, arrogant and headstrong. He was also "very very serious," says Goddard. "He was a man fighting hard to establish himself." Man Ray also had a potentially violent side. Goddard recalls an incident in 1932 when the photographer Lee Miller had left him. That night, Man Ray visited Goddard in a café. She noticed that he was carrying a gun. "He was in a dangerous mood," says Goddard. "We went twice round the Montparnasse cemetery to see if the lights were on in her flat. They weren't and she had gone. It was also raining and we both got completely soaked, so we went up to his room to dry my coat."

Man Ray then got Goddard to pose with a noose, a bottle of poison, and a gun. "I took the gun and pointed it to my head and smiled. He said that I couldn't smile, and I said 'Oh yes I can.' I was terrified."

Goddard remembers Miller being self-obsessed: "She used and misused people. She would take them, get the best out of them, and then it was 'Goodbye'. A real *femme fatale*." Neither was Goddard a big fan of Picasso: "I didn't like him. I don't like badly brought-up people and he was badly brought up. He was worse than rude. He also had to be with the most pretty girl."

But in the main, the painters, photographers, poets and novelists that Goddard knew were charming. "We were like a family," she remembers.

The Nazis tore this world apart. Man Ray went back to America. Goddard went to Madeira and Canada with her first husband, although model and photographer never met up in North America. Man Ray returned to Paris in 1951, in an almost pathetic bid to relive the pre-war years. Goddard, who had also returned, remembers their post-war meeting: "Somebody told me that he was alive and living in the Rue Ferrou. I didn't wait a minute. Off I went. It was about 11 in the morning and he was wearing a Mexican blanket. He very casually said, 'Come in Jacqueline'." It was as though they had seen each other the day before.

> "He wanted to write: to the only one that I didn't sleep with"

They were friends until Man Ray died at the age of 86 in 1976. The relationship had been entirely platonic. Goddard feels that his post-war work was not as substantial: "his photographs were becoming more like snapshots, but he was very happy, very witty, and terribly good company".

Goddard has written a book about her experiences with some of this century's finest artists, but she will leave it for others to publish. In it, she recalls a conversation in which Man Ray was suggesting what to write in a book as a dedication to her. "To the most beautiful girl I ever photographed," he said. "Not true nor flattering to the others," she objected. He then proposed: "To the only one I did not sleep with." "Too uncompromising to the others," she countered.

By now, he was getting exasperated. "To the most inspiring one, then?" "A compliment to me, but a perfect way of being rude to the others." Eventually, something neutral was agreed upon. They needn't have worried: the book was stolen.

● *Man Ray (sponsored by REL Consultancy Group) is at the Serpentine Gallery (071-402 6075) until Mar 12*



Man Ray's celebrated photograph of Jacqueline Goddard, believed to date from 1930

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POP ON FRIDAY: The burning sons of Atlanta ... Sleeper look forward to hotel rearrangements ... Dutch treat

God gave rock'n'roll to them

The Black Crowes are not just a rock band; they're claiming their birthright, as lead singer Chris Robinson tells David Sinclair



"Music is ancient," says Black Crowes' Chris Robinson (centre, with rock'n'roll centre-parting and shades, but of course). "It is spiritual. That's such a simple thing"

It is the middle of the afternoon in Dublin. The hotel room curtains are drawn shut. The bed is unmade. The smell of joss stick is heavy. Frankly, it does not take a degree in social anthropology to recognise this scene as the natural habitat of the rock'n'roll musician on the road.

Even so, students of the species would be hard pushed to find a better example than Chris Robinson, singer, co-songwriter, occasional harmonica player and full-time mouthpiece of the Black Crowes. Twenty-eight years old, 6ft 2in tall and weighing less than ten stone, he is the image of spectral, nouveau-hippy chic. Both his wrists are decorated with silver bracelets. A silver skull dangles menacingly from a string round his neck. There is a big silver ring on his index finger and another on his thumb. His long, black hair frames a pale, beaky face with a scrubby little beard. His rail-thin legs are squeezed into a pair of tight blue jeans that flare out alarmingly from the knees.

> "On a bad day, glory is beyond our reach. On a good day, we can part the sea"

Three albums down the line, and with combined sales of the first two now in excess of ten million copies, his band's reputation as a gang of road-hardened, rabble-rousing, good ol' boys from Atlanta, Georgia precedes them. And Robinson is at pains to point out that, unlike all those clever, ironic British groups who can't get arrested in America at the moment, the Black Crowes walk it like they talk it.

"Music is ancient," he says. "It is spiritual. That's such a simple thing. And for us the only way we can keep track of ourselves and who we want to be is just by telling the truth. Being as honest and as real as we can be.

"People always said that David Bowie was rock's chameleon. Well, either that or he was just the trendiest dude, who had to reinvent himself at every step of the way to stay young or whatever. But I don't want to invent myself. I want to be myself."

For Robinson, authenticity is the key to his music: he claims it as his birthright, no less. "I grew up in the southern United States. And all those forms of music — jazz, blues, country, gospel, R&B and rock'n'roll — came from the south. And it's still there."

Robinson and his guitar-playing younger brother Rich were born into a musical household. Their father, Stan Robinson, was a professional folk and country musician who played the Grand Ole Opry. Although the old man was not a great source of encouragement — Chris had it drummed into him from an early age that he "couldn't carry a tune from a well to the house in a bucket" — the boys would nevertheless spend their weekends being ferried around the neighbourhood hootenannies and hoedowns.

As Rich remembers it, "Chris and I didn't decide to be in a band, we just assumed it." Accordingly, the brothers played their first gig together in 1984 as Mr Crowe's Garden at a bar in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Six years later, the Black Crowes released their debut album *Shake Your Moneymaker*.

Ask Chris to name the singers he admires and he comes up with a list that includes Bob Dylan, Keith Richards, Gram Parsons and Van Morrison. Ask about his favourite musicians in general and he mentions the Grateful Dead, the Byrds, John Coltrane, the Allman Brothers Band, the Replacements and Big Star.

The strange thing is that, despite his impeccable background and influences, reviewers and journalists will keep getting their wires crossed and insist on comparing his spectacularly hoarse, bluesy style of singing to that of Rod Stewart when he was in the Jeff Beck Group and the Faces, and to Paul Rodgers of Free. Instead of being recognised as fearless upholders of a noble, southern roots-rock tradition, the Black Crowes have all too often been branded a 1970s retro-band.

"Oh, there's journalists who've never really listened to our records or come and seen us play," Robinson says with an impatient wave of the hand. "They seem to think that 'retro-rock' is a genre, which I think is so pathetic. You know, if you're really stuck in that I feel bad for you. If you don't understand the way that we look ... if that's all you think that we are and you think that we've stolen all these things from somebody else's life, then you're the ones who need to look and see where you are, and see what things are deep and what are shallow."

Later the same evening, the Crowes assemble backstage half-an-hour before showtime at the SFX, a 1,500-capacity hall at the rough end of Dublin. Every member of the band is 6ft or taller and, apart from the workhorses — drummer Steve Gorman and percussionist Eric Bobo — they all look as if a high wind would blow them away. Having applied a fine coat of white pancake to his face, Chris Robinson looks like the principal ghost as he leads the spindly men onstage to a tumultuous welcome.

They open with an arresting barrage of "Thick N' Thin", "No Speak No Slave" and "P.25 London" — a song from each of their three albums — and although they are only in the preliminary stages of a marathon world tour, it quickly becomes apparent that this is a band operating close to the peak of a considerable potential. For a solid two hours they pummel and pound their way through a cross-section of material, with particular emphasis on the blues and heavy, stoner-funk end of their repertoire.

Their policy is to change the set list every night, and several numbers have spaces set aside for jamming sequences. Tonight "Wiser Time" takes off into a spiralling guitar duel between Rich and Marc Ford that recalls the heyday of the Allman Brothers Band. It's almost good enough to take your mind off the fact that, for the last 20 minutes or so of the show, apart from the front of house spots, the entire stage lighting rig has broken down.

"On a good day, we can part the sea," Robinson says later. "And on a bad day, glory is beyond our reach. But you've got to keep looking for it. You have to trust everyone on the stage for it to happen. By the time we get to London it'll all be more in place."

● Amorica *is available on American/RCA Records. The Black Crowes play the Albert Hall, SW7 (071-589 8212), Jan 28 and 29; Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Jan 30; Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 483636), Jan 31; Sheffield City Hall, (0742 735295), Feb 1*

And so to Sleeper, perchance to dream

When you have just seen your new single go in at No 16, and the world is your prairie oyster, it's nice to get together with a like mind for a bit of girl talk



CAITLIN MORAN

The green-faced waif totters to the bar, and speaks the language of Hangover. "Bloody Mary, please. I warn you, I may need 15 or 16 of these before I can talk without groaning." Her skin is translucent, her eyes screwed against the power of the midday winter sun, and there is a smudge of half-hearted make-up on her eyelids, indicative of a) being too drunk last night to wash it off, or b) too frail and icky this morning to do more than dab gently with an eyeliner pencil, before lolling her head against the mirror and giving up.

Louise Werner, however, is suffering with glee — after all, it's not every day a girl hears that her single's gone into the charts at No 16, and that she'll be on *Top of the Pops*. And if the charts were a living creature, they too would be gleefully hungover this morning, as "Inbetweener" by Sleeper is the First Classic Pop Single of 1995, and raises one's hopes about the rest of the year to the size of the EC food mountain.

"I'm glad we're going to be famous this year," Werner says, carefully sitting down. "It means we'll never have to stay in guest houses again. Really, the most *bizarre* people run guest-houses — at this one we stayed in in Birmingham, the son of the woman who owned it had a huge knife scar across his neck, from one side to the other. We kind of ran away from him.

"Andy [Sleeper's drummer] went to his room, and there was already someone in his bed. He wouldn't leave. He said he liked it and he was comfortable and we could shove off.

"And you can't be rock-starish in boarding houses, can you? I mean, what is there to wreck? They have those old Seventies tellies that are so huge you'd do yourself an injury if you tried to chuck them out of the window; it would be too pathetic to trash a Teasmaid; so all that's left in the end is getting those little cartons of UHT milk and crushing them with your hands until they explode and splatter everywhere."

Previous interviewers — curiously, all male — have picked up with a vengeance on Werner's pronouncements on sex and female sexuality. It's the little matter of lyrics like: "Come and suck down meat with me / until it makes you feverish / I love to watch you eating stuff / Do you kiss your mother with those lips?" and interviews where Werner will say: "There's this view that women want romantic sex — and they just want good sex."

But this is all cool and good and needs to be said, because whatever certain circles believe about women's sexual emancipation, there are still articles in magazines telling you to giggle at men's jokes and never go to bed on the first date. But why not go to bed on the first date? You can make tons of exciting new friends that way, and it saves money on a string of nervous, twitching dinner-dates. Besides, it's fun.

So Werner is tired of talking about sex, and so we turn to cystitis. "We're just talking about women's things, aren't we?" Werner says. "But cystitis is a living death, it really is. Nobody ever talks about it, but if I was faced with a choice between having my arms removed and getting cystitis ever again, I'd wave goodbye to my arms quite happily. Er, except I couldn't, because I wouldn't have any arms.

"But the worst, the absolute painful worst, is getting it on tour when there isn't a bath in the room, just a shower. Almost as bad are the remedies people recommend. Bicarbonate of soda and ground ginger. Urgh. People turn into sadists when you have cystitis — the things they try and get you to take, and you take them because you think you're dying. Really, it's almost enough to make you give up sex." She gives a saucy grin. Monks three mile away melt.

So is Werner ready to be famous? "Yeah. I still feel vaguely uncomfortable when people ask me for my autograph — it's like, I'm *me*, you don't want my signature — but I'm looking forward to going on *This Morning*, with Richard and Judy. They fascinate me. You can always tell when they've had a row the night before, and Judy still hates Richard's guts and gives him all the difficult things to do, like taste the Curried Fruit Salad, or hold a hyperactive puppy. I love that public veneer that can be seen to be cracked. Flawed stars are ace."

Unfortunately then, by that reckoning, Werner is not ace at all.

● *"Inbetweener" is out now on Indolent Records, with the album, Smart, to follow at the end of January. Sleeper's tour starts on February 13*

NEW ALBUMS: Pure gold from the nether lands; plus pearls of punk

Bettie's stove is cooking

BETTIE SERVEERT
Lamprey
(Beggars Banquet BBQ 169)
A SPECTACULARLY unpleasant, eel-like creature that feeds on the blood of other fish, the lamprey seems an odd choice of animal to adopt as the title of a record, especially one as gracefully executed as the second album by Dutch quartet Bettie Serveert.

But even when the band is negotiating passages of near-stillness or conjuring a mood of apparent tenderness, there is a distinctive thread of tension lurking beneath the surface calm.

Canadian-born singer Carol van Dijk has one of those vixen-waif voices more commonly associated with Irish women called Dolores or Sinéad. She can sound sad, steely, vulnerable and violent all in a single song — and frequently does — while, behind her, guitarist Peter Visser steers the numbers from delicate opening verse to volcanic climax and back again.

For an album proceeding from a basic indie-rock guitar-band format — give or take the hint of a string section on "D. Feathers" — *Lamprey* is an extraordinarily haunting musical experience. From the bouncy pop of "Ray Ray Rain" to the aptly titled "Totally Freaked Out" it's the stuff that dreams are made of: some of them sweet and forlorn, others deep and murky.



Haunting Carol van Dijk and the boys of Bettie Serveert

VARIOUS ARTISTS
The Best Punk Album In The World ... Ever!
(Virgin VTD 42)
COULD you imagine a Mersey beat album without the Beatles? Or a round-up of guitar heroes that omitted Jimi Hendrix? By the same token it's hard to imagine any punk compilation without a track by the Clash, let alone one calling itself *The Best Punk Album In The World ... Ever!* (Come to think of it, wasn't the first Clash LP the best punk album ever?)

It is a shame that this 48-track selection has been blighted by such a glaring deficiency, since in all other regards it provides a tremendous pop overview of punk. Just about everyone else who made a mark during those wonderfully turbulent times is here — the Sex Pistols, Buzzcocks, the Damned, the Adverts, the Jam, Siouxsie & the Banshees, the Stranglers, the Skids, Magazine, the Ramones — and nearly all of them are represented by the right songs. The picture is rounded out by inclusions from bit players like Bow Wow Wow ("C30, C60, C90") and the Flying Lizards ("Money"), and fellow travellers such as the Only Ones ("Another Girl, Another Planet"), Iggy Pop ("The Passenger"), Killing Joke ("Eighties") and the Motors ("Dancing The Night Away").

Naturally, the nostalgic re-marketing of punk as yet another rock heritage item is a travesty of the movement's original ideals and vigorously to be deplored. But what a fantastic collection of old songs this is.

THE HUMAN LEAGUE
Octopus
(eastwest 4509-98750)
AFTER punk came the Human League, now down to a *ménage à trois*, but still boasting that they were the first group to make a successful pop album without using guitars. *Octopus* is a bullish attempt to echo the "classic" sound of their big hit album of 1981, while simultaneously asserting the League's supposed credentials as a modern act. "Time to get contemporary / The past is not the place to be," Phil Oakey sings in "These Are The Days". But, as with movies, cars and fashion accessories, nothing now seems so dated as a musical style that was originally designed to be "futuristic".

Oakey's fruity baritone resonates with comforting familiarity on the current hit "Tell Me When", but the karaoke-style vocals of Susan Sulley and Joanne Catherall are unnervingly prominent on cloying pop tunes such as "One Man In My Heart" and "Never Again", and Ian Stanley's production remains firmly locked in the 1980s.

The Human League may have invented the sound, but others, notably Pet Shop Boys and Erasure, have since deployed it to much better effect than this.

THE CHIEFTAINS
The Long Black Veil
(RCA 74321 25167)
HAVING called in favours from old drinking buddies such as Mick Jagger, Van Morrison and Tom Jones, and recruited various other obvious candidates to the cause — among them Sinéad O'Connor, Mark Knopfler and Marianne Faithfull — Irish trad-folk minstrels the Chieftains have come up with the most readily marketable album of their long and evergreen career.

Be that as it may, some of these collaborations are, frankly, a bit of a mess. When "The Rocky Road To Dublin", featuring all of the Rolling Stones, gives way to an impromptu blast of "Satisfaction" it sounds as if someone has suddenly opened the door to an adjacent recording studio. And Ry Cooder's vocal on "Coast Of Malabar" is simply terrible.

But Sting manages a surprisingly credible version of a traditional Gaelic-language song called "Mo Ghile Mear", and Cooder's slide guitar playing on "Dunmore Lassies" produces a wondrous combination of Celtic reel and country blues.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Carry On Up The Charts	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
2	The Colour Of My Love	Celine Dion (Epic)
3	Dummy	Portishead (Go! Discs)
4	Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
5	Always & Forever	Eternal (EMI)
6	Parklife	Blur (Food)
7	Cross Roads — The Best Of	Bon Jovi (Jambco)
8	Crocodile Shoes	Jimmy Nail (East West)
9	Univerality	Throwing Muses (4AD)
10	Steam	East 17 (London)

Compiled by MRB

NEW WAVES

Beauty and the beat

Yesterday reworked today becomes the sound of tomorrow

As our streets are laid with cables in preparation for the much-touted information infobahn, how will the unadorned voice make itself heard above the babel of the future? Two clues have fallen on to my doormat.

Kiss Closed My Eyes by **Laurel MacDonald** comes from Canada on Improbable Music; *Murder Ballads (Drift)* by **M.J. Harris** and **Martyn Bates** is released in Italy on Musica Maxima Magnetica. The music, though, originated in England. Both explore archaic song forms, setting solo voices against electronic soundscapes.

This unsettling contrast of exposed humanity and studio technology creates moods that take us back — further than any bogus traditionalism — to the deeper meanings of the song lyrics.

Harris (of Lull and Scorn) and Bates (from Eyeless in Gaza) work with old murder ballads such as the bloodthirsty "Lucy Wan", and a disturbing, *Nightmare On Elm Street*-style tale of "Long Lankin", a character who lives in the moss, tortures a baby in order to lure its mother downstairs, then kills her. On "The Fowler", Bates sings eerie glissandi over sounds that evoke the creaking shift of giant ice floes.

MacDonald possesses a voice of real beauty: pure and strong with an edge of harshness. On "Kyrie" she sings the Greek chant into the natural echo chamber of an underground water reservoir; on "Mo Chubrachan", a Gaelic cradle song, the words hover over a mist of electronically treated breath sounds and subliminal voices created by producer Philip Strong.

DAVID TOOP

صحتا من الاصل

McMillan hits out to fashion recovery

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALTHOUGH a maiden Test century by Brian McMillan placed South Africa in a strong position on the first day of the game against Pakistan in Johannesburg yesterday, he had to share individual honours with a jet-lagged fast bowler.

McMillan's unbeaten 106 was largely responsible for his side recovering to reach 354 for seven after being 168 for five in mid-afternoon. But South Africa's position would have been even better had Aamir Nazir not taken two wickets with successive deliveries late in the day.

Nazir had flown into Johannesburg only 90 minutes before the start of play as a replacement for the injured Waqar Younis, forced out by a hamstring strain and pains in his lower back. A delay in clearing customs meant Nazir arrived at the Wanderers ground some 30 minutes after play had begun in the first Test between the countries.

The South African captain, Hansie Cronje, gave Pakistan permission to use a substitute fielder while they waited for Nazir to arrive to win his third Test cap after a journey from Karachi which took him 14 hours. He eventually entered the attack 20 minutes before lunch and understandably looked some way short of top pace.

Nazir struck after McMillan and Jonty Rhodes had put on 157 for the sixth wicket, the team's best partnership since being readmitted to international cricket.

He moved the ball enough to find the outside edge to have Rhodes caught by Inzamam-ul-Haq fielding in the slips. Dave Richardson was then dispatched by a yorker. But Nazir was denied the chance of any further heroics by his second attack of cramp, which forced him to leave the field nine overs before the close.

South Africa were soon in trouble after winning the toss. Wasim Akram had Rudolf Steyn caught behind from a thinned leg glance with only a single scored, and although Gary Kirsten and John Commins added 54 in the next nine over Aqib Javed bowled Commins "through the gate" for 13 and had Daryll Cullinan caught behind before he had scored to leave South Africa struggling at 59 for three.

Kirsten and Cronje took the score to 106 for three at lunch and their partnership was worth 79 before both were claimed by the left-arm seamer, Kabir Khan, who was playing in only his second Test.

Kabir removed Cronje in the seventh over of the afternoon session as he was beginning to dominate. Cronje had reached 41 off 65 balls, having hit seven fours, when he failed to get on top of a cut and guided the ball straight into the hands of Asif Mujtaba in the gully.

Kirsten reached an accomplished half-century with a pull for four, his ninth boundary, and hit two more fours before becoming Kabir's second victim. The left-hander also fell to an attempted cut shot, top-edging to Aamir Sohail at second slip.

However, Pakistan lacked the fire-power to press home their advantage, and Jonty Rhodes and McMillan hit their side out of trouble.

Rhodes, who might well have lost his place in the side after a poor series against New Zealand, scored 72 from 128 deliveries before falling to Nazir, while the powerful McMillan played some thrilling shots, which brought him 14 boundaries, as he raced to his hundred from 146 balls — his previous best Test score was 98.

McMillan deserved his stroke of luck shortly before the close when he was bowled by one of 19 no-balls sent down by Wasim. Of the 58 extras recorded during the day, 31 were no-balls.

The bowling figures show three players with incomplete overs, a statistical freak caused by Nazir twice breaking down after starting an over, which had to be finished by Aqib Javed and Kabir Khan respectively.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten c Sohail b Kabir	62
P J R Steyn c Moin b Wasim	1
J B Commins b Aqib	13
D J Cullinan c Moin b Aqib	0
*W J Cronje c Mujtaba b Kabir	41
J N Rhodes c Inzamam b Nazir	72
B M McMillan not out	106
†D J Richardson b Nazir	0
C E Eksteen not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 17, w 6, nb 31)	58
Total (7 wkts)	354

P S de Villiers and A A Donald to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-55, 3-59, 4-138, 5-168, 6-325, 7-325.

BOWLING: Wasim 22-4-78-1 (nb 19); Aqib 22.4-4-91-2 (nb 5, w 1); Kabir 19.1-4-60-2 (w 5, nb 2), Nazir 9.1-0-48-2 (nb 5); Sohail 13-2-41-0; Salim 4-0-15-0.

PAKISTAN: Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamam-ul-Haq, *Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, †Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Kabir Khan, Aamir Nazir, Aqib Javed.



GRAHAM MORRIS

Roberts, with the assortment of equipment he uses to treat the England players, must now tend to his own injury

Injury jinx claims new victim

BY SIMON WILDE

IT WAS so far-fetched that, in the case of this particular cricket tour, it had to happen. As one England player after another succumbed to a bizarre assortment of injuries and illnesses around Australia, there was one man to whom each knew he could turn with urgency and confidence: the physio. That was, until yesterday. Yesterday, the physio copped it.

David Roberts, England's physiotherapist for the past three years, discovered on arriving in Bendigo — where the team began a four-day match against Victoria earlier today — that his left index finger was broken, a result of him helping out in fielding practice in Melbourne.

The finger is in plaster, as is the back of his hand, but Roberts was confident yesterday that the party would not be drafting in another replacement. Four players have flown home already because of injury and another five called up at various times.

Apart from the four who could not complete the tour — Martin McCague, Craig White, Darren Gough and Shaun Udal — ten players have been injured since the team reached Australia in mid-October, including one of the replacements. Neil Fairbrother, whose shoulder injury stopped him from playing at Bendigo. Another replacement, Mark Ilott, has been injured since leaving the team to join the England A party in India and has flown home.

Roberts has been kept busy almost since the day the tour began. Alec Stewart, one of four players to be injured twice, sustained the first of two breaks to his right index finger in the nets before a match had been played. Udal then broke a thumb attempting a return catch in the opening fixture, against an Australian Cricket Board chairman's XI at Lilac Hill on October 25.

After that England, who are 2-0 down after three Tests of the five-match series, never had all 16 members of their original party available at one time. They were most seriously depleted during the match against Queensland at Toowoomba shortly before Christmas, when Roberts, a useful club cricketer, and two locals were called on to field.

Last week, when England needed five runs from the final three balls against Australia A to qualify for the World Series Cup finals, neither of the two batsmen charged with the task, Chris Lewis and Angus Fraser, were among the chosen party.

They narrowly failed but the arrival of Fraser — a controversial and disputed omission in the first place — as cover for McCague was one of the key elements in England's improved performance in the Sydney Test match.

Only five players who began the tour have not missed a match through injury or illness. They are Gatting, Gooch, Hick, Rhodes and Tufnell. Gatting was struck a nasty blow in the face while in the field shortly after completing a double-century against Queensland, but he recovered in time to play in the second Test match in Melbourne. It is ironic that Gatting and Gooch, whose inclusion despite their age has attracted persistent criticism, should have remained fit while younger men have fallen.

ENGLAND'S LIST OF WOES

Player	Injury/illness	Matches missed
A J Stewart	Broken finger	5
S D Udal	Broken thumb	2
D E Malcolm	Chicken pox	4
M J McCague	Shin fracture	Sent home
J P Crawley	Calf strain	4
J E Benjamin	Chicken pox	6
M A Atherton	Back strain	1
D Gough	Hamstring	2
C White	Side strain	Sent home
P A J DeFreitas	Groin strain	1
G P Thorpe	Groin strain	1
P A J DeFreitas	Hamstring	1
A J Stewart	Broken finger	4
D Gough	Foot fracture	Sent home
N H Fairbrother	Shoulder strain	2
S D Udal	Side strain	Sent home

Australia must face up to their shortcomings



John Woodcock detects flaws that mar the glittering prosperity of a booming cricketing nation

In the World Series Cup, now out of the way, the strengths and less-emphasised weaknesses of Australian cricket were there for all to see. The depth of Australian talent was impressive, the umpiring as deficient as it almost always has been over here.

No other country, except perhaps India, has such a wealth of batting, and the Indians field nothing like as well as the Australians. It is expected of a young Australian these days that he should be able to save runs as energetically as he can score them, and most of them do. Much less convincing was the way Australia A squandered the start which Damien Martyn and Greg Blewett had given them in the second of the one-day finals.

Batting first after winning the toss, Australia A were ill for one after only 17 overs. The first team's bowlers had all come alike to Martyn who could well become a great Australian batsman as distinct from a very good one. The only other batsman I have seen who treated Shane Warne in such cavalier fashion, also in one-day cricket and then only spasmodically, was the South African, Hansie Cronje. Martyn went down the pitch to drive the demon bowler until he sent a long-on and a long-off back to defend the pickets. That is a very rare sight.

It is, of course, in Test cricket, with its own peculiar, sometimes intolerable pressures, that Warne is most in his element — and the Test series restarts in Adelaide next Thursday. I know it is tempting providence to say so, but since his 20 wickets at fewer than ten runs apiece in the first two Test matches, Warne himself has looked to be feeling the pressure almost as much as England's batsmen. The flexibility, fine-tuning and confidence needed to bowl leg spinners to such wonderful effect as Warne does are not to be summoned without many pangs, especially when the bowler's personal fortune (£400,000 a year?) hangs on it. That is enough about Warne — anyway, until he either strikes a length in Adelaide or looks relatively mortal.

Once Martyn's brilliant little innings (58 in 40 balls) had been cut short last Tuesday by a wretched leg-before decision — the ball, a leg break, must have pitched a good three inches outside the leg stump, Australia A seemed nonplussed. It was as though they had no imagination or instinct to fall back on. They go to their Cricket Academy, learn to bat, to bowl, to field, to be efficient, to try like mad and to psyche themselves up: but do they learn to extemporise? In other words, are they battery-reared?

As an example of what I am getting at, they kept hitting the ball straight to the fielders as if placement and the stolen single did not occur to them. They each had a lot to play for, certainly — being intensely and understandably keen to further their careers — but it was, nevertheless, revealing.

One of the reasons for the umpiring being so poor in Australia is that hardly any of those who take the job on have played the game themselves. In the Test matches the presence of someone from a neutral country is now an appeasing factor, even if it does not necessarily make for greater efficiency. Some of the decisions given in the Melbourne and Sydney Test matches by the tall, inscrutable Jamaican, Steve Bucknor, could just as well have come from an Australian, they were so questionable, but if England feel they have been getting the worst of the deal, that is symptomatic of their being the weaker side.

There can never have been a better example of this than when MCC were in Australia in 1954-55 and 1958-59. At the end of the first of those tours, England, having retained the Ashes, were fulsome in their praise of Messrs Hoy, McInnes and Wright. When the same three umpires shared the duties four years later and a much-fancied England side lost the series, we had hardly a good word to say for them.

There is a lot of luck in umpiring. In the course of a match it can fall to Smith rather than Snooks to have to make the more difficult decisions. In international cricket these days each one is endlessly replayed and analysed. "In my day we wouldn't even have appealed for that," protested Keith Stackpole, the former Australia opener, when Atherton was given leg-before to Warne in the Melbourne Test. Those who in their playing days had been deafened by the passion of "Stacky's" appealing, were not absolutely sure that they had heard him right. "It was hard to see where that was going except halfway up the middle stump," said Richie Benaud, the poker-faced diplomat, giving judgment on the decision from another television commentary box.

Generally speaking, Australian umpires are uninformed. Lou Rowan, Col Egar and Tom Brooks (a former State player) were exceptions, but the present crop are very moderate. At least when Mark Waugh was given leg-before later in Tuesday's match to something that might well have missed another couple of stumps, any of the England players who happen to be watching had the consolation of knowing that Australian batsmen suffer in just the same way as they do themselves.



Enjoy a £20 meal for 20p

There may be no such thing as a free lunch—but with *The Times* you can take a friend for a meal that will cost the same as a copy of Britain's best quality daily newspaper. *The Times has got together with Transmedia, the international restaurant card, to offer one meal for 20p when two or more people dine, as an introduction to a scheme that could also save you 25 per cent every time you eat out.*

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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Leopards 76 (Brown 27, Polit 17, Youngblood 16) London Towers 75 (Scott 20, Windless 15, Hanlan 14) (OT), Chester 73 (Johnson 22, Crowe 14) Sheffield 75 (Gayle 20, Huggins 17).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 92 Atlanta 80; Charlotte 111 San Antonio 110; Utah 99 Detroit 86; Indiana 106 Los Angeles Lakers 105; Miami 121 Boston 93; Milwaukee 97 Chicago 93; Orlando 108 Dallas 97. Los Angeles Clippers 92 Cleveland 83.

BUDWEISSER LEAGUE: Birmingham 115 (Lloyd 37, Dorsey 25, Samuels 21) Hemel Royals 88 (Ayinta 24, Kocchol 20, Howard 18).

BIATHLON

OBERHOF, Germany: Men's World Cup: 20k: 1, W Pellhuber (ft) 58min 55.4sec (1min penalty); 2, P Bailly-Salins (Fr) 59.01.5 (1); 3, E Ryabov (Russ) 59.16.3 (1); 4, Ricco Gross (Ger) 59.24.9 (1); 5, J Steinigen (Ger) 59.54.1. Standings: 1, J Age Tyldum (Nor) 102pts; 2, V Drachev (Russ) 79; 3, O-E Bjoemdalen (Nor) 63, 4, Ryabov, 60; 5, T Sikora (Pol) and P Favre (It), 56.

BOXING

YOKOHAMA: World Boxing Council super-flyweight championship: Hiroki Kawashima (Japan, holder) bt Jose Luis Bueno (Mex), pts

CRESTA RUN

STAGNI CUP: 1, B Coles (GB) 162.80; 2, M Melcher (Switz) 165.00; 3, T Hill (GB) 167.00; 4, N Smorthit (GB) 168.47. 5, D Payne (GB) 169.65.

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS MATCHES: ESFA Fuji Film Trophy: Fifth round: East Durham 1 South Tyneside 3. ESFA Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Crown Woods (Inner London) 1 St Clement Dane (Herts) 1: Dogging (Lincs) 5 Bilborough Vth Form Coll (Notts) 0; New Coll (W Yorks) 1 Preston Coll (Lancs) 4. Snickers Under-16 Trophy: Woollaston (Northants) 1 Cardinal Newman (Beds) 2.

Late results on Wednesday

FA CUP: Third-round replays: Arsenal 0 Millwall 2. Blackburn Rovers 1 Newcastle United 2; Bristol Rovers 0 Luton 1; Liverpool 1 Birmingham 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90min, Liverpool won 2-0 on pens); Manchester City 5 Notts County 2; Stoke City 1 Bristol City 3 (aet; 1-1 after 90min); Tranmere Rovers 3 Bury 0. West Bromwich Albion 1 Coventry City 2.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hearts 2 Hibernian 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Division two: Bournemouth 2 Swansea 2 League Cup: Exeter 1 Torquay 1.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 2 Everton 2; Nottingham Forest 5 Rotherham 0. Second division: Huddersfield 1 Preston 1; Blackpool 1 Mansfield 3; Port Vale 3 York 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Spain 2 Uruguay 2 (Corurial); Holland 0 France 1 (Utrecht).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 1 Stamco 1, Whitehawk 1 Shoreham 3.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Boston Utd 2 Gainsborough 2

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: West Ham 3 Barnet 0; Colchester 1 Leyton Orient 4, Wokingham 0 Brentford 2; Wycombe 6 Sutton Utd 0.

GLIDING

OMARAMA, New Zealand: World championships: Overall standings after nine days: Open (no GB). 1, U Schwank (ASW22L, Ger) 8521 pts; 2, R Lynskey (Nimbus4, NZ), 8511; 3, R Schroeder (ASW22B, Ger) 8297; 4, J Cardia (ASW22BL, Pol) 7901; 5, B Gantenbrink (Nimbus4, Ger) 7798, 6, R Tabery (Nimbus3, US) 7098. 15 metre: 1, E Napoleon (Ventus2, Fr) 8030 pts; 2, J Wills (LS8, GB) 7952; 3, G Naves (Ventus2, Fr) 7861; 4, S Chorao (Ventus2, It) 7854; 5, M Grund (Ventus2, Ger) 7544, 6, G Lherm (DG800S, Fr) 7515; 12, C Garton (LS8C, GB) 6780; 23, A Kay (LS6CW, GB) 5997. Standard: 1, M Kuittinen (Discus, Fin) 8021 pts; 2, B Spreckley (LS8, GB) 7878; 3, M Wells (LS8, GB) 7784; 4, J Aboulin (Discus, Fr) 7722; 5, R Schramme (Discus, Ger) 7691; 6, T van Dyk (LS8, NZ) 7679; 7, A Davis (Discus, GB) 7602; 17, S Jones (Discus51, GB) 6502.

GOLF

DUBAI: Desert Classic: First round (GB and Ire unless stated): 64: G Norman (Aus), 65: F Couples (US) 66: N Price (Zim). 67: S Torrance (Den), R Burns, P Baker, E O'Connell, G J Brand, W Riley (Aus) 68: E Els (SA), R Chapman, C Cassells, C Montgomerie, H Clark, S Cage, N Faldo (Swe). 69: P Hedblom (Swe), P Price, K Eriksson (Swe), R Goosen (SA), P Curry, S Simson (Sing), M Mackenzie, M Bezuidenhey (Fr), P Walton, M Campbell (NZ), R Boxall, S Richardson, R Willison, A Sejka (Ger), N Briggs. 70: O Rogahn (Nor), M Lanner (Swe), G Orr, S Struver (Ger), B Langer (Ger), A Oldcorn, S Ames (Trin), D Curry, A Murray, M Gates, M Hallberg (Swe), A Hunter, I Garrido (Sp), D Gilford, J Hawkes (SA), P Fulke (Swe), B Lane, C Rocca (It), J Rocanson, D Carter. 71: R McFarlane, M James, P Broadhurst, C Mason, A Gilmer (Swe), J Spence, D Clarke, W Wessner (SA), P Mitchell, S Watson, P Linhart (Sp), C Cavalr (Fr), P Moloney (Aus), I Palmer (SA), H Kase (Japan), P Eales, J Van de Velde (Fr), M Davis, J Townsend (US), S McAllister, S Bottomley. 72: A Binaghi (It), M A Jimenez (Sp), P McGinley, G Levenson (SA), M Mouland, P Mayo, P Teravainen (US), M Miller, D Cooper, D Ray, J Sandelin (Swe). 73: * S Nesbitt, A Sherborne, R Claydon, J Haeggman (Swe), J Bickerton, T Levet (Fr), R Drummond, J Robson, D Westermark (Swe), D Williams, M Gronberg (Swe), M A Martin (Sp), P-U Johansson (Swe), T Watanabe (Japan), M Roe. 74: P Lawrie, O Karlsson (Swe), F Jacobson (Swe), R Raffeny. 75: P Quinci (Switz), L Westwood, S Grappasonni (It), S Torrance, F Lindgren (Swe), S Holden, A Colliatt, D J Russell. 76: G Brand Jnr, I Pyman, P Affleck. 77: L White. 78: P Way, F Andersson (Swe), J Lomes, M McLean. 79: R Karlsson (Swe). 80: G Hanstead (Swe).

* denotes amateur.

MELBOURNE: Tournament players' championship tournament: Final round: (Australian unless stated): 65: M Clayton. 67: D McKenzie, P O'Malley, T Elliott. 68: R Davis, A Stolz, M Long (NZ), J Taylor. 69: M Harwood, P Fowler, R Allenby, S Owen (NZ), S Appleby, M Weir (Can), A Henwood, N Speirs. 70: E Bout (NZ), M King, M Etherington, P Senior, B Jackson (GB), D Smail (NZ), D Dunsley (US), J Dawes, C Jones. R Wills. 71: D Armstrong, M Stevens, B Andrews, D Matusenko, E Droop, M Allen, P Burke (US), M Ferguson, S Laycock, B Dickerson, H Kaloh (Japan), A Summers.

RYDER CUP: Leading United States positions: 1, T Lehman 502,500pts; 2, L Roberts 426,500; 3, C Pavin 404,167; 4, F Zoeller 345,000; 5, P Mickelson 329,884; 6, W Glasson 326,310; 7, T Kite 278,250; 8, M McCumber 264,167; 9, J Maggert 231,893; 10, R Estes 231,667.

SHOOTING

TRENTHAM: New Zealand: World Individual long range championships:

800 Yards (Tuesday): 1, N Gallagher (US) 150.10; 2, M Pattinson (GB) 150.10 (lost on count-back); 3, D Coleman (GB) 150.9. Other British: 5, A Lothian 150.7; 7, J Bellringer 150.6. 600 Yards (Wednesday): 1, T Botha (SA) 150.13; 2, Coleman 150.13; 3, A Menon (Can) 150.12. Other British: 4, P Kent 150.12; 8, G Barnett 150.11; 11, A Ringer 150.10; 12, A Chown 150.10; 14, J Warburton 150.100; 16, J Carmichael 150.19; 20, S Penrose 150.19.

900 Yards (Tuesday): 1, E Pintard (US) 148.5; 2, D Sutton (US) 147.3; 3, J Whiteman (NZ) 146.8. 900 Yards (Wednesday): 1, Carmichael 150.8; 2, Ringer 150.7; 3, Bromley 150.6. 12, Bellringer 148.7

1,000 Yards (Tuesday): 1, D Brantner (US) 146.6, 2, S Young (SA) 146.4; 3, F Godfrey (NZ) 146.2. 1,000 Yards (Wednesday): 1, G Walker (Aus) 145.8; 2, Bromley 145.6; 3, Pintard 145.3. Other British: 7, Coleman 144.3; 9, Mrs S Kent 143.6; 12, Ringer 143.3. Aggregate: 1, Walker 445.24; 2, Bromley 444.19; 3, Ringer 443.20; 5, Bellringer 441.18.

Overall standings after two days: 1, Pintard 878.36; 2, Ringer 874.36; 3, Godfrey 873.33. Other British: 8, Bromley 857.29; 9, Carmichael 857.25.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: West Wales Schools 11 New Zealand Schools 44.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIP: West London Institute 33 Royal Agricultural Coll 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Llandovery 13 Oldcha 6; Whitgift 8, Wimbledon Coll 5, John Fisher 5.

Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Fourth round: Rossall 24 Bradford GS 37. Daily Mail Under-15 Cup: Second round: Bristol GS 50 Launceston 3; Bradford GS 13 RGS Newcastle 5; Pangbourne 46 Churcher's 0. Manchester Schools Under-18 Cup: Stockport GS 18, Wirral 8.

SQUASH

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Essex junior open: Finals: Under-14: Boys: J Brewer (Kent) bt A Whipp (Cheshire) 6-9, 10-8, 9-7, 9-3. Girls: A Waters (Middx) by S Berry (Kent) 0-9, 9-7, 9-4, 2-9, 9-0. Under-12: Boys: M Gibson (Lincs) bt M Bolt (Norfolk) 8-9, 9-7, 9-5, 9-5.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Warrington 25 Castleford 24. Postponed: Widnes v Workington. Second division: Hull KR 22 Rydedale York 14. Postponed: Keighley v Leigh.

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: Embassy world championship qualifying competition: Seventh round: S Mazrocis (Eng) bt S MacFarlane (Sco) 10-7; P Cavney (Eng) bt N Terry (Eng) 10-8; T Chappel (Wal) bt P Davies (Wal) 10-8; N Gilbert (Eng) bt P McPhillips (Scot) 10-8.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Men's singles, second round: S Edberg (Swe) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; M Ondruska (SA) bt R Krelcek (Holl) 7-6, 6-4, 6-3; H Dreekmann (Ger) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; T Muster (Austria) bt T Guardiola (Fr) 6-3, 7-6, 6-2; Y Sposdea (US) bt W Black (Zimb) 6-4, 6-1, 6-0; A Krickstein (US) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; G Ruzeddid (Can) bt N Kulti (Swe) 7-6, 4-6, 2-6, 9-2, 6-3; P McEnroe (US) bt J Bates (GB) 6-3, 7-5, 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt S Campbell (US) 6-4, 7-6, 6-2; D Prinosil (Ger) bt W Masur (Aus) 7-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Eltingh (Holl) bt S Lareau (Can) 7-6, 5-7, 7-6, 7-6; P Korda (Cz Rep) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 2-6, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6, 7-5; T Martin (US) bt J-P Fleurian (Fr) 6-4, 6-2, 6-3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt K Carlsen (Den) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt G Forget (Fr) 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; A Agassi (US) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Men's doubles, first round: J Palmer and R Ranaberg (US) bt E Ferreira (SA) and D Rancial (US) 6-3, 6-4; M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt M Barnard and B Heygarth (SA) 6-4, 6-3; A Kratzmann and M Tebbutt (Aus) bt R Fromberg and B Lanham (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; D Adams (SA) and A Olhovskiy (Russ) bt J Holmes and T Lanham (Aus) 6-7, 6-3, 11-9; M Kratzmann (Aus) and S Stevan (NZ) bt A Boetsch and O Delaitre (Fr) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; C Suk and D Vacek (Cz Rep) bt N Pereira (Ven) and M Wilander (Swe) 6-4, 6-7, 8-7; K Jones and D Pate (US) bt B Dickerson (US) and G Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 7-6; M Damm and K Novacek (Cz Rep) bt L Lobo (Arg) and J Sánchez (Sp) 6-3, 6-7, 11-9; S Draper and P Tramacchi (Aus) bt N Kulti and M Larsson (Swe) 6-3, 7-6; P Annacone and T Ho (US) bt B Ellwood and Philippoussis (Aus) 6-4, 7-5; G Raoux (Fr) and G Russeski (Can) bt H J Davids and J Siemerink (Holl) 6-3, 7-6; T Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde (Aus) bt S Cannon and Jim Pugh (US) 7-6, 6-4; L Jansen and M Jansen (US) bt M Kell (US) and P Nyborg (Swe) 6-3, 6-3, 11-9; J Fitzgerald and P Rafter (Aus) bt C Brandi and R Furlan (It) 7-6, 6-7, 7-5.

Women's singles, second round: J Novotna (Cz Rep) bt H Sukova (Cz Rep) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; M Wiltmeyer (US) bt Sung-Hee Park (S Kor) 7-5, 6-3; L Raymond (US) bt K Godridge (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-0, 6-4; A Gavaldon (Mex) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-3, 6-1; K Date (Japan) bt P Fendick (US) 6-4, 6-3; S Appelmans (Bel) bt R Bobkova (Cz Rep) 6-2, 6-0; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt K Madridejos (Usr) 6-3, 6-1; M Babel (Ger) bt C Rubin (US) 4-6, 6-4, 9-7; E Makarova (Russ) bt R Zrubakova (Slovakia) 6-0, 6-2; B Paulus (Austria) bt A Keller (US) 6-3, 6-3; Z Garrison-Jackson (US) bt C Singer (Ger) 6-2, 6-1; A Coetzer (SA) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; L McNeil (US) bt S Maier (Ger) 7-6, 6-1; M Fernandez (US) bt L Harvey-Wild (US) 7-6, 7-5, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 6-2, 6-1.

Women's doubles, first round: S Drake Brockman and J Taylor (Aus) bt K Kroupova (Cz Rep) and K Studenikova (Slovakia) 7-6, 6-4; M Bollegraf (Holl) and L Neiland (Latvia) bt A Carlsson (Swe) and E Ilida (Japan) 6-3, 4-6, 8-1; R Grande (It) and J Kruger (SA) bt C Cristea (Rom) and M Koutselaal (Holl) 6-4, 6-2; K Guinard-Eagle and S Testud (Fr) bt Y Basuki (Indo) and N Miyagi (Japan) 6-7, 6-1, 6-2; J Halard (Fr) and P Shriver (US) bt S Reace (US) and M Werdel Witmeyer (US) 6-2, 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) and P Tarabini (Arg) bt N Bradtke and K Radford (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; M Lindstrom and M Strandlund (Swe) bt E Makarova (Russ) and M Muric (Croatia) 6-7, 7-5, 8-6; G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Belorus) bt L Golarsa (It) and M Pez (Arg) 6-2, 6-4; K Boogert and N Muns-Jagerman (Holl) bt V Lake and C Wood (GB) 7-5, 6-4; W Probst (Ger) and D Scott (US) bt S Appelmans (Bel) and M Oremans (Holl) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; L Davenport and L Raymond (US) bt J-A Faull (Aus) and J Richardson (NZ) 6-2, 7-5; E Reinach (SA) and I Spatea (Rom) bt J Hetherington (Can) and C Vis (Holl) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Y Kamio and N Kijimuta (Japan) bt B Farina (It) and P Schnoz-Ritter (Austria) 1-6, 6-2, 14-12; M Endo and N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt A Ellwood (Aus) and M Hingis (Switz) 6-3, 6-3; N Arendt (US) and C Singer (Ger) bt B Fulco-Villella (Arg) and R Simpson (Can) 6-3, 6-3; M McGrath (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) bt K Godridge and K Sharpe (Aus) 6-1, 7-5; G Sabatini (Arg) and B Schultz (Holl) bt B Rittner and C Schneider (Ger) 7-6, 6-4.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup: Louis Vuitton Cup challenger trials: Team New Zealand (R Coutts) bt oneAustralia (J Bertrand), 1min 38sec. Citizen Cup defender trials: Young America (K Mahaney) bt Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 0:18.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

RUGBY UNION

International matches

Ireland A v England A

(at Donnybrook, Dublin, 2.30)

Scotland A v France A

(at Belgray, Glasgow, 2.0)

CLUB MATCHES (7.0 unless stated):

Abercynon v Gilfach Goch; Abertillery v Glamorgan Wanderers; Barry Hill v Penarth; Boroughmuir v Glasgow High Kelvinside; Bridgend v Llanharan; Cardiff v Bristol (7.15); Carmarthen Quins v Narberth; Cuinne v Edinburgh Academicals; Pontypool United v Ebbw Vale; Gloucester v Exeter; Hawick v Edinburgh Wanderers (7.15); Kilmarnock v Peebles (8.15); Nottingham v Rugby (7.15); Old Belvedere v Leicester (7.15); Pontypridd v Cross Keys; St Mary's College v Fylde (2.30); Stirling County v Grangemouth (7.30); Tenby United v Llanelli; South Wales Police v Tredegar; Treorchy v Cheltenham.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

Bradford Northern v Wigan

FOOTBALL

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Athlone Town v Sligo Rovers (8.00); Bohemians v Dundalk (8.00); Cobh Ramblers v Shamrock Rovers (8.00); St Patricks Athletic v Cork City (7.45).

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Porthmadog v Mold (7.45); Afan Lido v Llanelli.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Watton v Histon.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Gusborough v Northallerton.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Fifth-round replay: Luton v Lea Valley (Harpenden Town).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Quarter-final: Doncaster v Thames Valley (8.0).

HOCKEY: Indoor Club Championships Finals (Crystal Palace): Pool A: Old Loughtonians, Hull, East Grinstead. Pool B: Barlord Tigers, Stourport, St Albans.

SNOOKER: Thailand Open qualifying (Blackpool).

هكذا من الأصل

Tougher penalties to be introduced in stand against non-triers

Racehorses face 30-day suspensions

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

IN A statement of considerable intent, the Jockey Club yesterday kept good its promise to punish severely the connections of horses adjudged not to have run on their merits within an overall review of its penalty structure.

The stand against non-triers, both welcome and long overdue, will result in errant jockeys receiving lengthy suspensions as opposed to fines. And culpable horses are to be banned from running for a fixed period of 30 days if both trainer and jockey are declared in breach of Rule 151, which governs non-triers.

This sanction against horses is the most effective yet contrived, as has been shown by its successful implementation in Ireland.

The prospect of a 30-day ban should dissuade connections from giving their horse what is euphemistically described as "a quiet outing" in advance of a major target.

"The whole intention behind the non-trier will have been thwarted," Anthony Mildmay-White, chairman of the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee, said.

In the first instance, it will be within the brief of racecourse stewards to implement bans on horses and jockeys in addition to fining trainers.

A second blatant breach will involve the matter's immediate referral to Portman Square and the disciplinary committee's sweeping powers.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: GOSPEL
(3.00 Kempton Park)
Next best: Clifton Beat
(4.00 Kempton Park)



ALAN WELLER

Mildmay-White believes the whole intention behind non-triers will be thwarted by the new penalty structure

A feature of Mildmay-White's tenure has been his willingness to devolve authority to racecourse stewards. They, in turn, have been subjected to regular briefings of their responsibilities.

They have been advised by lawyers how best to conduct an inquiry on the racecourse as part of an initiative aimed at raising standards.

Whatever their progress, it is hard to escape the conclusion that their increased vigilance over non-triers will see the disciplinary committee inundated with appeals.

In addition to stricter penalties for non-triers, themselves perceived by punters as a cancer within the sport, the penalty structure review makes provisions for stiffer sanctions against jockeys guilty of erroneous judgment.

Suspensions are to replace fines for riders taking the wrong course, mistaking the winning post, failing to weigh in and failing to ride out for the best possible placing.

These are all matters which directly affect the punter. Only last Tuesday, the complacency of Seb Saunders, the apprentice jockey, cost his well-backed mount, Battleship Bruce, victory in a race at Lingfield where he failed to ride out the Neville Callaghan-trained runner to the line. He was fined £375. Under the new penalty structure, Saunders, whose first such offence this was, would have been banned for between five and seven days.

The derision with which punters greet such blatant misjudgments causes more discomfort to the hapless jockey than any fine.

Equally galling for punters, however, is a jockey's failure to ride out for second place, which affects the outcome of forecasts, or third and sometimes fourth places, which can involve each-way bets. Jockeys committing such breaches will also be suspended.

The Jockey Club also proposes to correct the anomaly permitting jockeys to include days on which no racing takes place, notably Sundays, within their period of suspension. With one exception, a four-day ban will mean four consecutive racing days on the sidelines.

Riders banned for minor offences can claim exemption only on days when a Pattern race of group one status is contested. The suspension will be completed on days of less significance, but exemption does not extend to races of equivalent status abroad.

"Suspensions could be considered unduly harsh if they arise from a minor offence, but result in a rider missing a principal event," Mildmay-White said. The concession was granted largely on account of the more frequent two-day suspensions meted out of late by racecourse stewards.

A minor outcry greeted the bans incurred by Richard Dunwoody and Norman Williamson in March last year. Both jockeys infringed the rules at minor meetings and were forced to sit out the Cheltenham Hunt Festival.

Interestingly, the changes would not have permitted their participation as both riders attracted bans in excess of two days. Group one races are staged on 15 individual days of the National Hunt season and 23 on the Flat.

Details of the document, which were outlined in London yesterday, have been circulated among the sport's trade associations pending its presentation to the Jockey Club stewards for approval on February 6. Subject to some minor alterations, the new penalty structure will be introduced on March 1.

Dwyer replaces Dunwoody on Fortune And Fame



Dwyer: busy weekend

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

MARK DWYER will ride Fortune And Fame in the AIG (Europe) Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on Sunday.

Fortune And Fame's trainer, Dermot Weld, said last night: "Richard Dunwoody asked me to wait a little longer as he was considering an appeal against his ban, but when he decided he wouldn't go ahead with it the owners and myself asked Mark Dwyer to take over."

Weld added: "The horse is in great form, although I have the highest regard for Montelado — he still holds the track record at Cheltenham."

The ground — presently described as heavy — is a slight concern to Weld, but the trainer is confident Fortune And Fame will be inconvenienced no more than his rivals. "I am not in love with the ground," he said. "But I have been to Leopardstown and although the ground is heavy, the track is excellent. We will also be racing on a fresh strip."

Dwyer has ridden winners on the Flat and over hurdles for Weld in the past. The Curragh trainer added that if Fortune And Fame comes out of Sunday's race well, he is likely to take on Danoli in the Red Mills Hurdle at Gowran Park on February 18.

Dwyer, facing a busy weekend, is to keep the ride on the champion hurdler. Flakey Dove, who yesterday was confirmed a definite runner for the Haydock Park Champion Hurdle Trial tomorrow before having a crack at the Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Flakey Dove's trainer, Richard Price, had reportedly been upset that Dwyer would not commit himself to partnering the mare in her intended race at Cheltenham last weekend.

But Price said yesterday: "I am going to book Mark Dwyer to ride her on Saturday. There was never any real difference between us and it was all blown up out of proportion. I have decided to run her because she needs a race. If she didn't run and the following Saturday at Cheltenham was off, she would have gone through January without a race. She needs races as she gets very stuffy at home."

Flakey Dove was ridden by Dwyer when landing the Champion Hurdle last year, and is a 14-1 shot with William Hill to repeat that success in March.

☐ Adrian Maguire seized the opportunity to make ground in the jockeys' title race yesterday as the fates conspired against Richard Dunwoody. While Dunwoody was left on the sidelines by the cancellation of Taunton, Maguire landed a double at a Nottingham meeting which survived three morning inspections because of frost. Maguire's victories on Corner Boy and Major Yaasi leave him 16 behind Dunwoody.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.00 Flight Lieutenant
1.30 Master Charlie
2.00 Better Bythe Glass
2.30 Driving Force
3.00 Uluru
3.30 Sheer Ability
4.00 Clifton Beat

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 85

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, O — disqualified). Horse's name. (Days since last outing; F if flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: HEAVY (7AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.00 ASHFORD NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,777: 2m) (10 runners)

101 0-613 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 49 (D,S) (G Rach) C Brooks 6-11-4 G Bradley 98
102 AT IT AGAIN (W McKenzie-Coles) W McKenzie-Coles 6-10-12 Peter Hobbs –
103 5 BRIGHT SEASON 22 (M Wells) J Poulton 7-10-12 J F Titley 93
104 40-3 FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 83 (BF) (P & S Lewis Partners) R Hannon 6-10-12 G McCourt 99
105 U MAJBOOR YAROOZ 9 (Mrs J Beckwith) J Bosley 5-10-12 M Buckley –
106 50- REAL GLEE 289 (J Store) O Sherwood 6-10-12 J Osborne –
107 RED CHANNEL (D Wace) T Casey 5-10-12 R Dunwoody –
108 605-010 CLOWATER LADY 127 (F) (The Pastor Partnership) R Rowe 6-10-7 D O'Sullivan –
109 3 GLENBROOK FORT 65 (T Leadbeater) A J Wilson 6-10-7 M A Fitzgerald –
110 046 PEARL EPEE 35 (Mrs A Sheasby) D Nicholson 6-10-7 A Maguire 82

BETTING: 4-5 Flight Lieutenant, 5-2 Senor El Betrutti, 8-1 Real Glee, 10-1 Pearl Epee, Clowater Lady, 14-1 Glenbrook Fort, 16-1 Majboor Yarooz, 25-1 others.

1994: SCOBIE BOY 6-11-4 J Osborne 113-8 fav C Egerton 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

SENOR EL BETRUTTI 16¼l 3rd of 8 to Brass Of Mor in novice handle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) BRIGHT SEASON 20½l 5th of 17 to Rasidy Jo Dear in selling handle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 9¾l 3rd of 10 to Over The Pole in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). REAL GLEE stood 8½l 5th of 17 to Don't George in National Hunt Flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. CLOWATER LADY beat Wellingtong 12l in 10-runner National Hunt Flat race at Tramore (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start.
GLENBROOK FORT 12l 3rd of 17 to Seven to National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). PEARL EPEE 12½l 4th of 12 to Certainly Strong in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: SENOR EL BETRUTTI

1.30 ASHFORD NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,777: 2m) (9 runners)

201 P ABLE CHOICE 41 (Dr Cornel Li) R Armstrong 5-10-12 T Kent –
202 4/ CLASH OF CYMBALS 682 (The Wiltshire Partnership) B Meehan 6-10-12 B Powell –
203 0- COUNTRYMASTER 275 (C Bozzoli) C Egerton 5-10-12 J Osborne –
204 221B FOX SPARROW 25 (D,BF,S) (B Todd) N Tinkler 5-10-12 N Williamson 95
205 2/63 KATIE'S JOKER 50 (J Russell) O O'Neill 5-10-12 A Maguire 86
206 MASTER CHARLIE 76F (D Watson) I Balding 5-10-12 R Dunwoody –
207 0 RIVA ROCK 22 (P Collins) R Rowe 5-10-12 T Grantham –
208 2U43-4U SUPREME MASTER 34 (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 5-10-12 L Harvey (5)
209 WOODMANS STAR 25F (Mrs E Sheehan) J Sheehan 5-10-12 R John (7) –

BETTING: Evens Master Charlie, 4-1 Fox Sparrow, Supreme Master, 8-1 Able Choice, 12-1 Countrymaster, 14-1 Clash Of Cymbals, Katie's Joker, 25-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

CLASH OF CYMBALS 22l 4th of 10 to Master Bavard in National Hunt Flat race at Lingfield (AW, 2m) in March 1993. COUNTRYMASTER 30l 16th of 25 to The Reprobate in National Hunt Flat race at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to firm). FOX SPARROW beat Shyston 10l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. KATIE'S JOKER 11l 4th of 12 to Fourth In Line in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). MASTER CHARLIE 24l 9th of 11 to Acting Brave in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start, on the Flat.
RIVA ROCK 36½ 10th of 17 to Ready To Draw in selling handle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). SUPREME MASTER 13½l 4th of 12 to Simple Arithmetic in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: FOX SPARROW

2.00 RUNNYMEDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,373: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

301 40-331 SO HOPEFUL 11 (S) (M Pitfield) Mrs J Renfree-Barnes 6-12-5 (5ex) DOUBTFUL –
302 05-511P BETTER BYTHE GLASS 20 (D,S) (Bloodstock Syndi) N Twiston-Davies 6-12-0 T Jenks 93
303 0320 PISTOL RIVER 35 (V) (P Green) N Walker 5-11-9 Guy Lewis 89
304 2-3F3F1 PRINCE OF SALERNO 25 (S) (C Watson) N Gaselee 8-11-4 W Carle (7) 97
305 3230-22 MILLMOUNT 22 (B) (Eastridge Racing) T McGovern 5-11-2 F Leahy 90
306 P3HUR-4 JUST A SECOND 20 (C Drewe) C Drewe 10-10-7 A P McCoy (3)
307 003222 FAST RUN 22 (BF,F) (I McBreaty) J Mullins 7-10-0 S Curran 97
308 -805P ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 22 (P Townsend) R Dickin 6-10-0 D Meredith 95

Long handicaps: Fast Run 9-13, Zambezi Spirit 9-12.

BETTING: 2-1 Better Bythe Glass, 3-1 Millmount, 7-2 Prince Of Salerno, 8-1 Pistol River, Just A Second, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

SO HOPEFUL beat Place Stephanie distance in amateurs' riders' novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, heavy). BETTER BYTHE GLASS dead-heated with Mayoe O'Grady beating Little Gunner 1l in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. PISTOL RIVER 1l 2nd of 15 to Desmond Gold in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. PRINCE OF SALERNO beat Pintaugh 6l in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft). MILLMOUNT 7l 2nd of 16 to Seven A Call in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, soft). JUST A SECOND 44l 4th of 7 to Idol's Lady in novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, heavy) with BETTER BYTHE GLASS (6th worse off) pulled up before 3rd. FAST RUN neck 2nd of 12 to Luks Akuza in selling novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, soft).
Selection: MILLMOUNT

2.30 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE (£4,663: 2m) (7 runners)

401 0PD-231 CLAY COUNTY 41 (D,F,S,S) M Hammond 10-12-0 A Maguire 96
402 1532-3P THUMBS UP 82 (D,F,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 9-11-10 M A Fitzgerald 92
403 3/4-1113 LEOTARD 34 (CD,G,S) (C Heath) D Sherwood 8-11-5 J Osborne 96
404 381-513 DRIVING FORCE 50 (B,D,F,G,S) (B Reid) Mrs M McCourt 9-10-10 G McCourt
405 2112P4 DR ROCKET 7 (D,F,S,S) (The Rocketeers) R Dickin 10-10-3 D Meredith 3 96
406 1/442-PP BRIGGS BUILDERS 116 (D,F,S,S) (Mrs N Jones) A Moore 11-10-0 A P McCoy (3) 96
407 13F/P6-P CHIP AND RUN 18 (D,F,S) (C Murphy) Mrs J Reiter 9-10-0 J R Kavanagh –

Long handicaps: Clay And Run 9-13.

BETTING: 2-1 Clay County, 9-4 Leotard, 5-2 Thumbs Up, 8-1 Driving Force, 12-1 Dr Rocket, 16-1 Briggs Builders, 50-1 others.

1994: NORTHERN JINKS 11-10-12 D Meredith (33-1) R Dickin 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLAY COUNTY beat Starwell John 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Edinburgh (2m, good). THUMBS UP 2¾l 3rd of 3 to Around The Horn in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. LEOTARD 30l 3rd of 5 to Book Of Music in grade D Novel Novice Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good). DRIVING FORCE 2½l and neck 3rd of 7 to Drumstick in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good). DR ROCKET 6½l 4th of 8 to Kilbeel in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good). BRIGGS BUILDERS beat effort 4l 2nd of 8 to Northern Jinks in handicap chase over course and distance (2m, good to soft) in this race last year.
Selection: CLAY COUNTY (nap)

3.00 ROYAL MAIL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,418: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

501 /21/3-05 TRUTH BE TOLD 7 (S) (Yeti-mail Partners) J Gifford 11-12-9 P Hide 97
502 566/50-0 SUPER SENSE 13 (G,S) (Mrs M Keogh) R Rowe 10-11-10 T Grantham –
503 F-54429 GAY RUFFIAN 6 (C,S) (B McHugh) A Jarvis 9-11-7 R Dunwoody 80
504 21-2540 GOSPEL 41 (F,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 T Jenks (3) 92
505 353-166 ULURU 6 (D,F,S) (P Morgan) C Nash 7-10-3 J R Kavanagh 90
506 0016-P5 HURRICANE BLAKE 58 (B,F,G) D Gissell 7-10-0 Peter Hobbs 98
507 UP-654F LANDED GENTRY 9 (S) (R Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 6-10-0 W Marston

Long handicaps: Hurricane Blake 9-13, Landed Gentry 9-8

BETTING: 11-4 Uluru, 3-1 Gospel, 7-2 Truth Be Told, 6-1 Super Sense, 8-1 Hurricane Blake, 10-1 Landed Gentry, 14-1 Gay Ruffian.

1994: DARK HONEY 9-11-7 A Dicken (7-1) S Dow 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRUTH BE TOLD 31l 5th of 8 to Cyborgo in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good) SUPER SENSE 93l 16th of 24 to Miracle Man in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft). GOSPEL 8½l last of 4 to Reikeel in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. SOPHIE MAY beat Mahtall 21½l in juvenile hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). BLAIR CASTLE about 7l 5th of 12 to Marissa in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) with GAY RUFFIAN 43¾l 13th. HURRICANE BLAKE 21½l 5th of 14 to Island Jewel in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) LANDED GENTRY 23l 4th of 12 to Seven Towers in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 1f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: GOSPEL

3.30 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (£4,598: 3m) (5 runners)

601 111111- SHEER ABILITY 303 (D,6,S) (M Devlin) C Mann 9-12-0 R Dunwoody 90
602 42P36-3 FOREST SUN 42 (F,G,S) C Brooks 10-11-7 G Bradley
603 1104-52 MENEBLICK 78 (F,S,S) (Hyde Park Stables) E Murphy 96
604 134-634 HILLWALK 20 (D,G,S) (M Stone) R Curtis 9-10-5 D Morris 95
605 6141-P14 BOLL WEEVIL 41 (BF,G,J) (J Bellower) O Sherwood 9-10-2 J Osborne 92
606 54-0533 CUDDY DALE 24 (CD,F,S,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 12-10-0 J R Kavanagh 87

Long handicap: Cuddy Dale 9-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Cuddy Dale, 7-2 Menecblick, 4-1 Sheer Ability, Boll Weevil 9-2 Forest Sun, 7-1 Hillwalk.

1994: CATCHAPENNY 9-10-0 P Ward (7-1) M Wilkinson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHEER ABILITY completing six-timer, beat Tempet 4l in 5-runner handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good) on final start last season. FOREST SUN best effort last season 2l 2nd of 5 to Mannchenna in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good). MENEBLICK 15l 2nd of 5 to Rose Raisa in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 5f, good). HILLWALK 4¾l 3rd of 11 to Aesop Chalone in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). BOLL WEEVIL beat Tourism Prince 3½l in 9-runner handicap chase at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with CUDDY DALE 13¾l better off) tailed off 6th. CUDDY DALE 13l 3rd of 6 to Native Pride in handicap chase over course and distance (soft).
Selection: SHEER ABILITY

4.00 WALTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,008: 2m) (10 runners)

1 11 CLIFTON BEAT 20 (D,S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 11-6 R Dunwoody 91
2 410 ZAITOON 65 (D,G) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 11-2 A Maguire 76
3 551 SOPHIE MAY 21 (S) (J Daniels) M Tegan 10-11 D O'Sullivan 90
4 2 AMANCIO 34 (BF) (P Locke) G Harwood 10-10 M Perrett
5 BLAIR CASTLE 154F (Nightlyers) G Balding 10-10 A P McCoy (3) –
6 KETABI 118F (B and D Whitney) R Akehurst 10-10 S Ryan (7) –
7 RUSTAVI 65F (R Clements) R Curtis 10-10 D Morris –
8 3F RYAN GIGGS 86 (Mrs C Barclay) A Jarvis 10-10 N Williamson 71
9 4F FOLLY FINNESSE 18 (R Withers) B Millman 10-5 D Salter 85
10 RUMI 102F (T Hill) C Egerton 10-5 J Osborne –

BETTING: 5-2 Clifton Beat, 3-1 Amancio, 9-2 Rumi, 5-1 Zaitoon, 10-1 Blair Castle, 12-1 Ketabi, 16-1 others.

1994: HALHAM TARN 10-10 P Holley (12-1) D Elsworth 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLIFTON BEAT, completing double, beat Kinzi Sol 1l 7l at 10-runner juvenile hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). Previously beat AMANCIO (10lb better off) 14¾l in juvenile hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). ZAITOON beat Jahib 4l in 11-runner juvenile hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start. SOPHIE MAY beat Mahtall 21½l in juvenile hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). BLAIR CASTLE about 7l 5th of 12 to Marissa in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft) with GAY RUFFIAN 43¾l 13th. HURRICANE BLAKE 21½l 5th of 14 to Island Jewel in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) LANDED GENTRY 23l 4th of 12 to Seven Towers in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 1f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
RUMI beat Flat effort beat Hazzy 4l in conditions event at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good)
Selection: CLIFTON BEAT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	3	7	42.9	N Williamson	11	47	23.4
N Henderson	20	73	27.4	R Dunwoody	26	113	23.0
N Tinkler	4	18	22.2	M A Fitzgerald	10	45	22.2
D Nicholson	13	62	21.0	D O'Sullivan	3	14	21.4
D Sherwood	11	55	20.0	Peter Hobbs	8	42	19.0
C Brooks	4	31	12.9	P Hide	4	21	19.0

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.40 High Flown. 2.10 Sharp Gazelle. 2.40 Bold Frontier. 3.10 Rosina's Folly. 3.40 Rousitto. 4.10 Shakiyr.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
1.40 GRAND SELECTION (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.40 CRAB HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,024: 1m) (7 runners)

1 46-1 HIGH FLOWN 11 (C,G) Ronald Thompson 9-6 (5ex).. L Dettori 2
2 00-1 GRAND SELECTION 13 (D,G) M Bell 9-7 M Fenton 1
3 00-1 HARRY BROWNE 14 (C,G) Mrs J Ramsden 9-7.. S D Williams 7
4 002- TOMKA 41 (S) D Morley Smith 9-5 A Mackay 8
5 -424 SAMANA CAY 4 (S) D Nicholls 9-4 A Eddery (7) 5
6 4-03 FAIRY'S SON 3 (D) W Muir 9-0 Stephen Davies 4
7 005- MISS TOFFEE NOSE 113 D Cosgrove 8-8 L Newton (5) 3

3-1 Grand Selection, 4-1 Harry Browne, 9-2 High Flown, 5-1 Tomka, Miss Toffee Nose, 6-1 Samana Cay, 14-1 Fairy's Son.

2.10 HALIBUT CLAIMING STAKES (£2,537: 1m) (13)

1 300- ALUNSON'S MATE 65 (C,D,F,S) T Barron 7-8-6 Jenny Benson (7) 2
2 46-2 BATTLE COLOURS 14 (CD,BF,F,S) Mrs J Ramsden 6-9-3 S Sanders (5) 6
3 00-1 SHUTTLECOCK 14 (CD,S,S) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-2 M Fenton 12
4 2-20 NO SUBMISSION 4 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 9-9-0 L Dettori 10
5 -143 SUPER BENZ 4 (C,F,G,S) F O'Mahony 9-8-0 G Carter 9
6 06-0 HILTONS TRAVEL 7 (G,S) E Alston 4-8-13 S Webster 11
7 6-04 WARHURST 7 (CD,G) D Nicholls 4-8-13 Alex Greaves 1
8 032- SHARP GAZELLE 26 (D,F) B Smart 5-8-12 R Cochrane 5
9 006- MAJOR MOUSE 255 (D,F,G) W Haigh 7-8-11 Dale Gibson 7
10 110- IVAN THE TERRIBLE 41 (C,D,G) B Ellison 7-8-5 A Mackay 4
11 00 ASMARINA 11 S Bowring 5-8-3 C Teague (7) 3
12 03-2 DUICK MILLION 13 B Meehan 4-8-2 D O'Neill (7) 13
13 000- MONKEY BOY 73J M Wane 4-8-1 J Fanning 8

7-2 Battle Colours, 4-1 Shuttlecock, 6-1 Sharp Gazelle, 7-1 No Submission, 8-1 Super Benz, Allerton's Mate, 10-1 Warhurst, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Norton, 33 winners from 153 runners, 21.6%; M Johnston, 27 from 136, 19.9%; M Ryan, 11 from 57, 19.3%; Miss A Whitfield, 5 from 28, 17.9%; W Haigh, 16 from 92, 17.4%; T Barron, 33 from 246, 15.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 29 winners from 141 rides, 20.6%; Alex Greaves, 34 from 222, 15.3%, R Cochrane, 12 from 97, 12.4%; Claire Balding, 5 from 50, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

2.40 SHARK HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,067: 6f) (9)

1 00-5 RUSSIAN HEROINE 13 (F,S) M Johnston 9-7 T Williams 4
2 003- CHALDON HERRING 60 (B) T Barron 9-5 Kimberley Hart (7) 8
3 05-4 DOLLY FACE 13 (F) W Muir 9-0 Stephen Davies 5
4 5-11 PORTEMO 7 (CD,G) S Bowring 9-0 (7ex) C Teague (7) 3
5 003- BOLD FRONTIER 24 (C,G) K Ivory 8-13 R Cochrane 7
6 01-4 KOMLUCKY 13 (D,G) F O'Mahony 8-2 J Quinn 1
7 03-4 NEEDWOOD NEWT 11 B McMahon 8-1 S Sanders (5) 2
8 62-5 DOWDENCY 13 J Fanshawe 7-12 N Carlisle 6
9 000- BRANSTON KRISTY 25 C Smith 7-9 N Vadey (5) 9

7-4 Portemo, 4-1 Dowdency, 5-1 Bold Frontier, 6-1 Komlucky, 8-1 Daily Face, 10-1 Russian Heroine, 12-1 Needwood Newt, 14-1 others.

3.10 OYSTER MAIDEN STAKES (£3,606: 7f) (8)

1 04-0 AT THE SAVOY 7 T Barron 4-9-0 Kimberley Hart (7) 8
2 J00- INCIVAR 108 C Brooks 5-9-9 L Dettori 3
3 500- LEGAL FICTION 59 M Johnston 4-9-0 T Williams 4
4 /6-9 SPANISH STRIPPER 7 M Chapman 4-9-6 .. D R McCabe (5) 7
5 04-0 ZIGGY'S DANCER 16 E Alston 4-9-0 D Wright (3) 5
6 000- BANDITA 53 Miss A Whitfield 4-8-9 R Pratter (5) 6
7 062- PRATIQUE 155 P Calver 4-8-9 Dale Gibson 2
8 0-25 ROSINA'S FOLLY 4 J L Harris 4-8-9 R Cochrane 1

9-4 Pratique, 3-1 Legal Fiction, 4-1 Rosina's Folly, 7-1 Ziggy's Dancer, 10-1 Inover, 14-1 At The Savoy, 16-1 Spanish Stripper, 20-1 Bandita.

3.40 LOBSTER SELLING STAKES (£2,259: 1m 3f) (13)

1 0-10 GREEK GOLD 4 (CD,G) S Kelly 6-9-7 Alex Greaves 6
2 4-13 ROUSITTO 7 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 7-9-7 L Dettori 4
3 6-05 BALLAD DANCER 9 (F,G,S) J Mackie 10-9-2 G Carter 5
4 46-3 TOP SHEL 14 (CD,BF,G) K Burke 7-9-2 M Fenton 6
5 00-4 TRAIL OF TEARS 14 W Haigh 5-9-2 Dale Gibson 12
6 40-5 VENTURE FOURTH 14 E Alston 6-9-2 J Stack (5) 3
7 60-0 KILLING TIME 7 (V,S) Mrs M Macauley 4-8-12 M Fenton 1
8 0-21 OFF THE ARK 8 (V,G,S,S) I Campbell 4-8-12 R Cochrane 9
9 05-2 SHARP THRILL 13 (V) B Smart 4-8-12 S Sanders (5) 13
10 DANCING REEF 78J E Alston 6-8-11 D Wright (3) 10
11 60-5 MEDLIN 7 J L Harris 5-8-11 T Ives 2
12 0-04 BRITANNIA MILLS 14 (F) M Chapman 4-8-7 D R McCabe (5) 11
13 00-2 GREEK NIGHT OUT 14 (F) J A Harris 4-8-7 S D Williams 7

3-1 Top Shiel, 4-1 Till The Air, 5-1 Rosslyn, 5-1 Greek Gold, 8-1 Greek Night Out, 10-1 Ballad Dancer, 12-1 Trail Of Tears, 14-1 others.

4.10 OCTOPUS HANDICAP (£3,010: 1m 4f) (8)

1 4-22 ROYAL CITIZEN 4 (CD,BF,G) J Bottomley 6-10-0 R Cochrane 1
2 03-1 STEVIE'S WONDER 13 (D,G,S) M Ryan 5-9-12 G Carter 2
3 4-1 SHAKIYR 18 (C,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-7 L Dettori 4
4 00-0 JIHAAD 4 (V) J Norton 5-9-1 J Quinn 7
5 00-1 SUDDEN SPIN 7 (C,S) S Norton 5-8-10 (5ex) J Stack (5) 6
6 06-3 OZZIE JONES 7 (D,F) M Chapman 4-8-5 D R McCabe (5) 3
7 150- LIGHTNING QUEST 251 (F) I Wainwright 4-8-1 L Charnock 8
8 60-5 MR MORIARTY 4 (BF) S Bowring 4-7-9 Claire Balding (7) 5

3-1 Sudden Spin, 7-2 Royal Citizen, 4-1 Stevie's Wonder, 5-1 Shakiyr, 8-1 Ozzie Jones, 10-1 Mr Moriarty, 12-1 Lightning Quest, 20-1 Jihaad.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kempton Park: 2.00 Pistol River Catterick: 2.50 Wadada.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.50 Benbeath. 1.20 Microlite. 1.50 Speaker Weatherill. 2.20 CRANK SHAFT (nap). 2.50 Mhemeanles. 3.20 Valiant Warrior. 3.50 Shaffic.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.50 SCRABO VIEW.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,574: 2m 3f) (16 runners)

1 2431 INGLETONIAN 34 (C,S) B Wilkinson 6-11-5 D Bentley (3) 88
2 0 BASSENHALLY 34 Mrs P Sly 5-11-0 R Marley –
3 3-56 BENBEATH 42 M Harwood 5-11-0 Mr C Bonner (5) 98
4 0-02 LORD DORCET 57 J Charlton 5-11-0 B Storey
5 00 OLD ALE 42 J Quinn 5-11-0 L O'Hara –
6 0 OLD HABITS 41 J Eyre 5-11-0 D Peace –
7 PERSIAN GRANGE 0 Lamb 5-11-0 Mr A Manners (7) –
8 0 SIRERIC 107 S Bell 5-11-0 K Johnson –
9 -100 SOLAR NOVA 51 (B) I Pack 7-11-0 N Smith 87
10 SUMMER DALLIANCE W Kemp 5-11-0 D Byrne –
11 TUMULIN DOT J Haldane 5-11-0 N Doughty –
12 VINES CROSS T Carr 7-11-0 Mrs A Farrell –
13 6000 RUA ROS 13 Mrs S Smith 5-10-9 Mr P Mawley (7) 72
14 4-0 TACTIX 42 Miss M Milligan 5-10-9 Richard Guest –
15 0 THE STELL BURN 41 W Reed 5-10-9 Mr D Parker (5) –
16 0- YOUANDI 279 L Lungo 5-10-9 T Reed –

3-1 Lord Dorcet, 4-1 Benbeath, 5-1 Ingletonian, 7-1 Solar Nova, 8-1 Tactix, 10-1 Rua Ros, 12-1 Youandi, 14-1 others.

1.20 WALTBY FILLIES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,402: 2m) (19)

1 1 FAMILIAR ART 91 (D,G) G Moore 11-0 N Bentley 89
2 1P MORAITE 102 (F) Mrs M Kendall 11-0 Mrs M Kendall 75
3 9856 AMNESIA 32 (V) Mrs S Bradburne 10-7 R Murphy (7) 79
4 AMY'S DREAM R Woodhouse 10-7 D Peace –
5 60 BESCABY GIRL 11F J Wainwright 10-7 P Midgley (3) 70
6 BUSTLE'EM 165F D McCain 10-7 D McCain (5) –
7 P CHOMPOR 24 M Hammond 10-7 D Bentley (3) –
8 DROP THE DONKEY 149F N Bycroft 10-7 D Towler (7) –
9 000 KOO'S PROMISE 99 C Popham 10-7 M Mackney –
10 MARY'S FEELINGS T Dyer 10-7 S Storey –
11 4623 MICROLITE 8 (B) M Hammond 10-7 A Dobbin
12 0 MISS GREENYARDS 53 J Haldane 10-7 L Wyer –
13 0 MISSUS MURRELL 111 N Tinkler 10-7 M Dwyer –
14 PEEP O DAY 98F Mrs M Reveley 10-7 P Niven –
15 04 PORTAMENTO 14 J Toller 10-7 W Fry (7) 68
16 5503 RED MARCH HARE 14F D Moffatt 10-7 D J Moffatt (3) 77
17 ROSY LYDGATE 14F S Kir

صحتنا من الاصل

Master craftsman back where he belongs



Gerald Davies looks forward to a successful return for Robert Jones as the Wales scrum half in Paris

This is not the time to mince words. Goodness knows, the span of a rugby player's career is brief enough and, when recognition is deserving, it should be forthcoming. Not with sentimental regret after he has departed the scene, but while he is in the creative fullness of his prime. So it must be said, with his supremely articulate performance for the Barbarians against South Africa still fresh in the memory, that Robert Jones, the Wales scrum half, is a true master of his craft and, in the expression of the position's definitive, textbook skills, the best of his generation.

He can pass with length, accuracy and speed to both left and right when most scrum halves favour one or the other. The reverse pass, which hardly any other scrum half possesses, is another piece in his armoury. Beautifully balanced and firm, he kicks with either foot which, again, few can do. So close to the powerhouse, it is essential to be an astute reader of the game.

Jones, 29, has not been consistently recognised. If he has demonstrated his gifts for ten years since he began as a schoolboy with Swansea, he has only intermittently been able to do so within the Wales team. He has shone through while most around him have been but pale shadows yet, for all this, upon his shoulders and that of his position, has fallen the weighty question of how Welsh fortunes could best be improved when inadequacies were more obvious elsewhere.

Tomorrow, Jones has been selected for the 49th time for Wales when they play France at Parc des Princes. But for the vagaries of selection, this figure could have been more and would by now have made him the holder of the record number of Welsh caps, still in the possession of J. P. R. Williams, with 55. By Jones's calculation, and not including the times he has been unavailable through illness or injury, there are 17 other occasions when he could have played for Wales.

His last appearance in the five nations' championship was when he came on as a replacement in Dublin a year ago. To see him run on was to be reminded how incongruous it was that, endowed with all his gifts, he should be an afterthought. For all Rupert Moon's sturdy vigour and unflinching spirit, he could not properly replace Jones's sovereign and polished skills.

But Jones's path has been littered with obstacles ever since, after appearing 12 times for Wales Schools, his early displays for his club were dismissed by one Wales coach as having no part to play in his plans. Stylishness, unlike work-rate, does not always find immediate or universal approval. But, two years later, in 1986, he was playing for Wales.

"There have been reasons why I've been left out in the past, but knowing the reasons doesn't take away the disappointment," he said. "I was dropped for the first time in New Zealand in 1988. Jonathan Griffiths took my place and continued at scrum half when the European season began. In 1990, I couldn't go to Namibia because of pneumonia, which meant that Chris Bridges played for the next six matches. And, in the last 18 months, my kind of play is not what the Welsh team was thought to need."

Rugby, like all sports, can suffer from too much analysis. There are too many theoreticians attempting to rationalise the whys and wherefores of a sport that delights, more often than not, in its irrationality and variety. For every one opinion, there are half a dozen more.

Robert Jones has suffered too much from such theories: "Of too many people who think they know what's what," as he puts it, aware that he has more experience of the position at this level than anyone else in Wales bar Gareth Edwards. What else could the coaches know?

"I admit, when I was first left out and listening to the advice from all and sundry, I began to change my game," he said. "If the selectors wanted me to charge at the back row and take them on, then I would do so.

"But I wasn't comfortable. It wasn't my game. In those circumstances I seek advice from Geoff Davies, my former schoolteacher at Cwmtawe. And he said: 'Forget what others say. Play the game you've been good at since you were 11 years of age. Play the style that is natural to you.' And that is precisely what I've done. I may not run at people, but I can create the spaces for others to do so."

Rob Andrew played alongside Jones on the British Isles' tour to Australia six years ago. With typical generosity, Andrew said that playing with Jones revived the confidence that had been missing in his own game.

"For pure scrum half skills," Andrew said, "there is no one who expresses them better. He passes to both sides and, if they are not necessarily fast, they are long and accurate. He kicks with either foot, which takes a lot of pressure off his partner in the way that it also does in his ability to read the game. He is exceptional."

Jones's talent deserves a long and successful season in his country's red jersey. If it happens, it could not do so to a nicer and more gifted scrum half.



HUW EVANS

Jones, training with the Wales squad yesterday, hones his passing before the encounter with France tomorrow

David Miller says means now exist to enforce rugby's more murky laws

Cards should strengthen referee's hand

The start of the five nations' championship tomorrow sees the introduction of the controversial isciplinary yellow and red ard system, already begun in omestic rugby two weeks go. The potential benefits eem to be widely misunderood and unappreciated.

It is not just a question of hether the use by referees of ore visible, unequivocal easures, as in football, will nable them to control better e element of excessive vioence that is so destructive to e public image of the game. hat need, in the eyes of most, abundantly clear.

Much more, however, it is a atter of whether rugby refers will have the wit and the illingness to utilise the ystem to curb repetitive reaches of the laws, such as ffside, and thereby improve e game for players and pectators. This aspect is perps less instantly obvious, yet rguably even more important a game so often so confused, nd confounded, by the comlexity of its laws.

Don Rutherford, the technial director of the Rugby ootball Union (RFU), beeves the influence of an nproved disciplinary system fundamental to the develop-ent of rugby as a world ame. "If rugby is to be played ell," Rutherford said, "it ust have players in onside ositions. That's the area [the rd system can influence]. he referee is there to help 30 layers enjoy themselves. I'm ptimistic that the threat [of a ellow card] will restrain the layers — that we won't see assive numbers of cautions nd sendings off, but the layers will realise they have ot to watch it."

It is rumoured that rugby as influenced in its introducon of cards by observation of e system in operation during e World Cup football finals the United States last sumer. A special committee from ugby World Cup (RWC), nsisting of Sir Ewart Bell reland), Leo Williams (Ausalia) and Keith Rowlands reland) was apparently impressed by the stringent applition of cards, in conjunction ith the laws, by football refees, and the degree to which is allowed skill to dominate.

The proposal to introduce ards was passed to the Interational Rugby Football oard (IRFB) by the RWC mmittee, with its recomendation for inclusion in the five nations' championship. England initially resisted but, when the proposal was carried, decided to extend the experiment to the senior domestic league divisions.

On January 7, David Cleary, the Orrell forward, enjoyed the dubious privilege of receiving English rugby's first yellow card. The practice has operated in France for some time with, significantly, a cumulative totting-up process for individuals and teams. This is conspicuously absent from the five nations' championship and Courage league.

The card system applies to Law 26: Foul play, which concerns not merely violence but three issues — first, obstruction; second, unfair play (technical) and repetitions; and third, misconduct or dangerous play.

Rugby, even more than football, being a game in which fierce physical collision is a central factor, the borderline between fair and foul can sometimes be hard to define. Brutality, however, is mostly self-evident, as with the infamous occasions of the past two seasons which resulted in grave injuries to England players; to de Glanville, against New Zealand, and Callard, against South Africa, with the subsequent sending-off of Rodber for retaliation after the latter offence.

Red cards are unlikely substantially to change the attitude or performance of referees, always assuming such incidents are seen. It is unarguable, moreover, that greater willingness to send off those guilty of brutality would rapidly reduce its occurence. Will Carling, the England captain, and Brian Moore, the hooker, are in no doubt.

"If there is conclusive proof that a player did something [violent], they shouldn't play," Carling insists. "Every incident is well catalogued by video." Moore adds, "and needs dealing with in a serious manner. In that respect, there is a problem in the public's perception of the game's discipline."

Both England players are open minded, while simultaneously expressing some doubt, wondering how the referees will react to their new power under the scrutiny of public expectation. Both say the game is generally cleaner than ten years ago, despite occasional, disgraceful lapses.

"Any initiative is welcome," Moore said, "but I'm not sure cards are the answer. Peer-group pressure is the most effective inhibition. Players would soon influence selectors if a colleague was repeatedly losing matches by indiscipline. There ought to be 22-yard penalties for foul play irrespective of where the infringment occurs, if there is not a penalty try."

Carling and Moore plead for better player-representation in the game's administration, a development of paramount importance in any modern sport and something hotly debated at the centenary congress of the International Olympic Committee this year. "Players know what happened, and are the severest critics of each other," Carling said. "With player-representation, the South African [who injured Callard] would have been banned." Moore agrees: "I can't think of any walk of life where decision-makers for the affairs of the under-30s are appointed from among those who have not been directly involved for 20 or 30 years." Moore is particularly concerned about the absence of cumulative penalties for yellow-card offences.

The scope for referees to improve the technical aspect of the game lies in Law 26's catch-all provision for "bringing the game into disrepute". This would allow, for instance, the issuing of a yellow card to a member of a team that has repeatedly been offside, never mind that the guilty players have varied. The same argument applies to incorrect feeding of the scrum, or deliberate collapsing of the scrum.

There is at present some general confusion concerning the RFU directive to referees not to be "demonstrative" when issuing cards. Yet that contradicts the explicit purpose that they are a visible indication that a player has been cautioned. Likewise, if a referee speaks to a player and does not show the card, it is clear the player has not been cautioned — something hitherto more often in doubt in rugby than in football.

This aspect is welcomed by Ed Morrison, the international referee from Bristol. "Everyone will know what's happened," he said. "With the game's new high profile, I can understand the reasoning [behind the system]. We cannot afford for prominent incidents to take the game backwards. It should be clear what the referee has done."

Jack Rowell, the England manager, stresses the need for a uniformity in decision-making and hopes that there will not be over-reaction. "Rugby has a very exciting future, which the World Cup will enhance," he said, "so it is essential that the public sees a good product. Referees have a very difficult task, yet it is of critical importance. With 30 bodies flying around in a complex, contact game, proper control is imperative."



Scott, left, playing for Orrell at Leicester last weekend, was the first player to be shown a red card in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship

'The players will realise that they have got to watch it'



Morrison: need for clarity



Moore: initiatives welcome

Canada's students supply test for Scots

BY MARK SOUSTER

LEARNING, as Canada's rugby union team has discovered in the past few months, can be a painful process. Sixty points conceded against England and six consecutive defeats on their demanding autumn tour have been hard to digest. Yet they enter the international match at Murrayfield tomorrow confident that the lessons have been absorbed, and that their commitment to a new running game will add to Scotland's recent misery.

Their captain, Gareth Rees, who wins his 29th cap tomorrow, agreed that recent performances against England and France had been unacceptable, but had helped to reveal the side's shortcomings.

"That is why we have had such a tough fixture list," he said. "We need that in Canada. We haven't got anything like the five nations' [championship]. We are trying to play a simpler, more expansive game, but there is a learning process there, and we are going right through it to the extent of 60 points against us."

Rees, who said the defeat at Twickenham was the low point of his rugby career, took heart from the fact that Canada scored three tries in that match. If ball-retention can be improved and if the athletic pack provides sufficient possession, "then I seriously believe we can beat Scotland", he said.

The Canada coach, Ian Birtwell, said Scotland should not read too much into the Twickenham setback. "Scotland will make a grave mistake if they think we will play as we did against England," he said. "We are building towards a running game in South Africa for the World Cup, and are making great improvements."

Canada make three changes from the side beaten 28-9 by France last month. Teaching commitments have deprived them of the wing, Lougheed, who scored twice against England, and injury rules out their former captain, Hadley. Mark Cardinal comes in at hooker and Kevin Whitley, the one new cap, replaces Hadley.

The France A team makes one change for the international against Scotland at Hughenden, Glasgow, tonight. The prop, Louis Amary, is injured and will be replaced by Emanuel Menieu.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

ALUDAL

) Marshy, of marshes, especially (of plants) growing in marshy round, from the Latin *palus, paludis* a marsh. "The proposed eries of terms runs thus — Paludal: plants of marshy ground, ne roots of which are in water or wet ground most part of the ear, or constantly."

UEBRADA

) A mountain stream in South America, also a ravine. Spanish, ne feminine of *quebrado*, the past participle of *quebrar* to break. he broken feminine thing". "Next morning I rode out on my nule, to take my last dip in the quebrada of the Loseria, which as a rapid in a beautiful little rivulet, distant from Panama bout three miles."

INGOCANDY

) Some kind of confection or other, *hapax legomenon* from ames Joyce, *Ulysses*, 1922, either from *ringo* a variant or *eryngo* + *andy*, or *ring o' candy*: "Hot herringpies, green mugs of sack, oneysauces, sugar of roses, marchpane, gooseberried pigeons, iagocandies." They sound delicious.

A'ANGA

) The monetary unit of Tonga, from the native word. *The imes*, 1966: "Tonga has decided against calling its new decimal urrency unit the dollar because the native word, tola, also eans a pig's snout, the soft end of a coconut, or, in vulgar nguage, a mouth or similar orifice. The new unit, to be ntroduced next year, will be called pa'anga, which has only two lternative meanings — a coin-shaped seed and, not urprisingly, money."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Qxh7+! Kxh7 2 Rh4 mating

Offiah seeks double century

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MARTIN OFFIAH whizzes past milestones as swiftly as he goes round defenders. Another looms for him tonight at Bradford where the Wigan and Great Britain rugby league wing will be seeking the four tries he requires to become only the second player to score 200 touchdowns in the first division, Ellery Hanley being the first.

In four seasons at Widnes, Offiah scored 120 league tries. Although injuries have restricted his productivity at Wigan since he was bought for a world record £440,000 in 1992, he has managed 76 since then, 22 in 16 championship appearances this season.

If Regal Trophy matches are included, Offiah, 28, is the leading try-scorer of the season, with 30, and is happy with his game. "Instead of doing the things people kept telling me to do, I've returned to a style I feel happy and confident with, rather than running across the field and trying to blast my way through," he said.

Wigan's last championship win at Odsal, three years ago, came in the game in which Offiah scored his first try for the club. It is far from impossible he could score four tonight for he has done so on nine previous occasions and has twice scored five.

Bradford Northern, although lying in third place, are not the side that, in company with Warrington, pushed Wigan to the limit in the championship last season. A win for Wigan would nudge them back to the top, ahead of Leeds.

Widnes are hopeful that their Great Britain international, Andy Currier, will be able to return to them on loan after a troubled 18 months with Featherstone Rovers and the recent collapse of a deal which would have taken the centre to Warrington.

Gerald Cordle, 34, the Bradford winger who is the oldest member of the Wales squad, will undergo an exploratory knee operation next week and will miss the match against England in Cardiff on February 1. Jason Lee, the Warrington and Wales winger, who was detained in hospital overnight after the 25-24 defeat at Castleford on Wednesday, was allowed home yesterday, his injury having been diagnosed as a muscle spasm rather than spinal damage, as at first feared.

☐ Barrie-Jon Mather, Wigan's £150,000 transfer-listed Great Britain forward, had an exploratory knee operation yesterday. He was injured against Sheffield Eagles in November.

Jumbo Sports Crossword

TWELVE readers have won prizes in *The Times* Jumbo Sports Christmas Crossword. The senders of the first six correct entries drawn have won autographed copies of *Letting Rip, the fast-bowling threat from Lillee to Waqar*, by Simon Wilde; the six runners-up have won copies of *Visions of Golf*, a celebration of the work of the Allsport agency. The closing date for entries was January 14.

The winners were: G Copley, Wadworth, Doncaster; Jane Wintersgill, London W9; R Patterson, Scarborough; J Medley, Worcester; J R Beard, Lytchett Maltravers, Dorset; Chris Lawrence, London SE10.

The runners-up were: M Nicholson, Lincoln; M P Young, Highbridge, Somerset; Michael Moran, Penrith, Cumbria; Eddie May, Thorpe Bay, Essex; D M Roberts, Hall Green, Birmingham; A P Sparks, Pewsey, Wiltshire.

SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1, Mid-wicket; 8, Medals; 9, Fred Winter; 13, Saves; 14, Inter; 15, Neale; 16, Victory; 18, Pass; 20, Ernie; 21, Ames; 24, Ovett; 26, Bell; 27, Charlie Smirke; 28, Visa; 30, Pep; 31, Magn; 32, Fall; 35, Irishmen; 36, Oxford; 39, Aston; 41, Leg; 42, Drop; 43, Cricketer; 45, Space; 46, Pairs; 48, Sumo; 49, Pot; 50, Dip; 53, Gas; 56, Out; 58, Defensively; 59, Heavyweight; 60, Lie; 61, May; 62, Ice; 65, Old; 69, Asd; 72, Inner; 73, Lions; 74, Pat Eddery; 76, Zola; 77, MCC; 78, Monte; 80, Romans; 81, Oneriat; 83, Star; 84, Tommy; 85, Roy; 89, Slam; 91, Jeremy Guscott; 95, Lalo; 96, Owens; 98, Rory; 99, Eagle; 100, Ankle; 101, Tony Meo; 103, Dixie; 104, Piece; 105, Lugs; 106, Chant songs; 107, Attack; 108, Intercept.

DOWN: 1, Master; 2, Devon Malcolm; 3, Inspect; 4, Kneecap; 5, Thistle; 6, Matthews; 7, Durham; 8, Langer; 9, Faldo; 10, Wrists; 11, Nat; 12, Ray Illingworth; 17, Open golf shot; 19, Sevens; 22, Mirror; 23, Ski slope; 25, Tip; 29, Amen; 30, Peaked; 32, Fades; 33, Extra; 34, Gooch; 37, Deep; 38, Meet; 40, Toppled; 44, Towel; 47, Range; 51, Ulton; 52, One iron; 53, Gym; 54, Shy; 55, Fault; 57, Oldham Athletic; 58, Denis Compton; 63, Ellery; 64, Engineer; 66, Oaks; 68, Deer; 67, Adams; 68, Grand; 70, Sporting Life; 71, Flat; 75, Slater; 78, Mays; 79, Toomey; 82, Leg break; 85, Raw; 86, Israeli; 87, Cockpit; 88, Steeler; 90, Losers; 92, Robert; 93, Myopia; 94, Resist; 97, Spins; 102, Yen.

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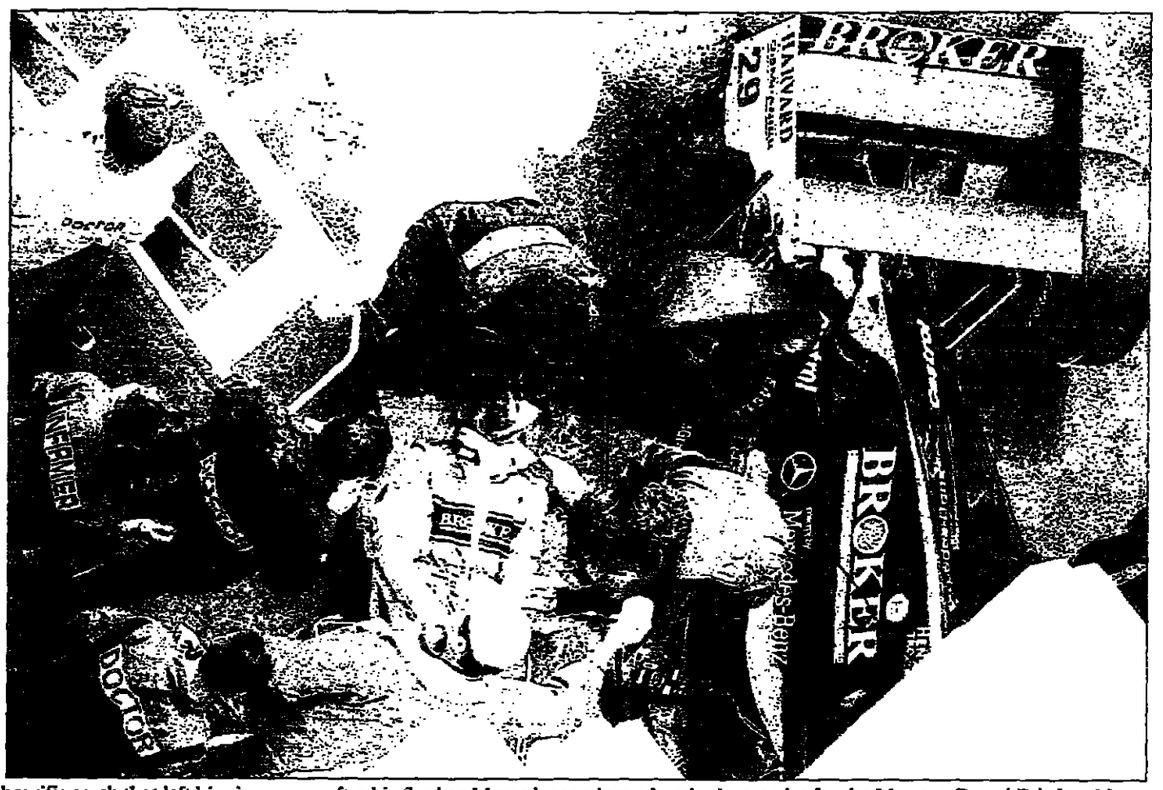
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هكذا من الأصل

Oliver Holt reflects on how a driver's comeback from the brink of death has lifted Formula One

Wheel turns full circle in revival of Wendlinger





Wendlinger, left, fully recovered from the horrific crash that left him in a coma after his Sauber-Mercedes ran into a barrier in practice for the Monaco Grand Prix last May

There have been few fairy tales to lighten the spirits of the followers of Formula One motor racing in the past 12 months, but one came true this week. Plucked from an accident that marked one of the lowest points of the traumatic 1994 season, it reached a happy ending yesterday in a factory 20 miles from Zurich.

The first of five groups of journalists were led up several flights of stairs to the top floor of the Sauber team's headquarters in Hinwil and into a long gallery. At one end, two figures stood gazing out over an expanse of whiteness, watching a hovering helicopter whip the snow into a storm of white powder. One was Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the other, Karl Wendlinger.

Everyone had known for weeks that Frentzen had resisted overtures from Williams and McLaren in order to stay with the Swiss team. Wendlinger's position had been less certain as he fought to overcome injuries sustained when he crashed during practice for the Monaco Grand Prix in May, an accident that left him in a deep coma.

Now, though, it was decided. A drive with Sauber and its new engine partner, Ford, is one of the most coveted seats in Formula One this season. Christian Fittipaldi, the Brazilian, was known to be keen to secure the place for himself but Wendlinger had proved his fitness and Sauber stood by him. The decision confirmed an astonishing comeback.

Wendlinger, 26, smiled as he eased himself into a chair. His movements are slower than before and he walks with a limp. His facial expressions seem intangibly different, too, and he remembers nothing of his accident, nor of another race a fortnight earlier. But he has retained his easy charm and wit, his intelligence and his desire to compete. "All I ever wanted, even when I was in the hospital, was to drive again," he said.

That seemed an improbable prospect from the moment Wendlinger's Sauber-Mercedes slewed across the track in Monte Carlo and smashed into a barrier in front of horrified observers watching from their yachts. When the extent of his head injuries became apparent, it plunged a sport already reeling from the deaths of Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna at Imola a fortnight before even deeper into crisis and acted as a catalyst for sweeping rule changes.

Regular bulletins from the Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco in the hours after the crash revealed Wendlinger's brain was swelling. Most people expected him to die. When he clung to life, the cynics said they were keeping him alive until the race was over. He lay in a coma for 19 days and gradually the signs became more encouraging. Eventually, he was moved to hospital in Austria and was brought back to consciousness. He left hospital at the end of July and the slow process of rehabilitation began.

All the time Peter Sauber, the team owner, insisted that Wendlinger, who had been more than a match for Michael Schumacher in their days in the Mercedes Sportscar team, would reclaim his drive when he was fit. His loyalty spurred the driver's recovery.

"At first, I just had to try to get back to some sort of normal life," Wendlinger said. "But I was so far away from normal life that even simple things were a great effort. I had to learn to walk again, to do everything again. Every day, I was in therapy.

"Then, when I left hospital, I started to do some sports. At first, my idea of sport was just walking around a bit with my girlfriend in the village where I live. Then I went to the Willy Dungl clinic in Austria and did a little bit of bicycling and some work in the gym.

"The constant support I had from the team was very important because it meant I never lost motivation. I always had the possibility that when I was fit again I could drive the car. Mr Sauber assured me of that from the beginning. Now, I am almost there. There are still a few things I have to improve but I will be fine by the beginning of the season."

The only hiccup in his progress was when he returned too early for a test at the end of last season and a planned comeback had to be aborted. There were more dark mutterings about his future but Wendlinger kept fighting.

He has now completed the equivalent of three race distances in further tests and the doubts have disappeared. "It is good for the morale of the team to have him back," Leo Ress, the chief designer, said. "We all feel he belongs to us. He is in good shape now, and we know he will be even quicker than he was before."

CAR 95

"I think I make an 'okay' road car driver, but you would probably find a chauffeur, somebody who does it for a job, would make a better driver than me"

David Coulthard tells Oliver Holt of his likes and hates of off-track driving tomorrow in *The Times*

SPORT IN BRIEF

Halliday's return should strengthen St Albans

ST ALBANS, who defend their national indoor club hockey title at Crystal Palace today, will be strengthened by the return of Andy Halliday from injury, although the absence of Tim Ginns, who is still unfit, leaves them slightly below their full potential (Sydney Friskin writes). Halliday leads a side whose fighting qualities were in evidence when they qualified for the final stages against heavy odds last month.

To qualify from Pool B for tonight's final, St Albans will have to get past Barford Tigers and Stourport, who are both well stocked with talent and experience. Although Hull cannot be taken lightly, the top position in Pool A seems a matter for dispute between East Grinstead and Old Loughtonians, who contested the final in 1993. Old Loughtonians have yet to win this title although, with the wealth of talent at their disposal, this could just be their year.

Jackson strikes gold

JUDO: Simon Jackson, from Rochdale, led the British medal challenge at the world championships for the visually impaired in Colorado Springs yesterday by taking his second world title to add to his two Paralympic and two European titles (Alix Ramsay writes). The win, in the 78kg category, maintained Jackson's seven-year unbeaten run. Ian Rose, 22, from High Wycombe, won the 86kg class while, in the women's competition, Anita Hall, from Wales, won the 56kg.

England close to victory

CRICKET: The England Under-19 team is well placed with a day to go in its match against the Leeward Islands in Montserrat. After gaining a first-innings lead of 76, Englandreduced the Islanders to 73 for 6 at the close on the second day. Marcus Trescothick, the captain, scored 81 in 189 minutes and Alex Morris contributed 41. Jason Searle took three for 15 in ten overs in the islanders' second innings.

☐ Javagal Srinath, 26, the India Test bowler, has signed a one-season contract to play for Gloucestershire this summer.

Nelson rejoins Bears

BASKETBALL: Steve Nelson, the 6ft 5in England forward, has joined Worthing Bears, his former club, after being released by Thames Valley Tigers. He leaves the league champions only a fortnight after their coach, Mick Bett, praised him for playing well out of position at point guard. Since then, however, Nelson's court time has been limited and he contributed only four points to the Tigers' triumph over Sheffield Sharks in the 7-Up Trophy final. Ian McKinney has joined the Sharks from Derby Bucks.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	50	90	good	powder	good	sun	-5	18/1
(Excellent skiing with fresh powder on a good base)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	70	100	good	powder	good	cloud	2	19/1
(15cm of fresh snow on hard base, good skiing)								
Mayrhofen	40	100	good	varied	fair	cloud	-1	19/1
(10cm fresh snow, generally good skiing)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	65	230	good	powder	good	fine	-6	19/1
Superb powder skiing, great conditions								
Avoriaz	110	170	good	powder	good	fine	1	18/1
Excellent fresh powder giving superb conditions								
Courchevel	100	200	good	powder	good	sun	6	19/1
30cm fresh powder, great skiing, avalanche danger								
Megève	85	170	good	powder	good	fine	1	18/1
Superb skiing, powder on a good base, no queues								
Val d'Isere	90	220	good	powder	good	sun	9	18/1
Wonderful powder skiing throughout Espace Killy								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	varied	good	fine	2	18/1
Excellent skiing on all pistes, powder available								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	205	250	good	varied	good	fine	8	18/1
Very good skiing, colder and some fresh snow								
Klosters	80	140	good	powder	good	fine	2	19/1
Light powder on all pistes, all lifts open								
Zermatt	75	255	powder	powder	good	fine	5	18/1
Perfect skiing conditions, great powder all day								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artifical.

Graham remains calm as pressure grows at Arsenal

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

THIRTEEN days ago, George Graham carefully considered the implications of Arsenal's drab 0-0 draw with Millwall in the FA Cup third round and, glimpsing a chink of light, he seized on it. "Let me throw some statistics at you," he said to the assembled media wolves. "Of ten cup-ties this season, we have won seven and drawn three, so let's be positive." Backed by an overall cup record of only two defeats in 44 ties, home and abroad, spanning 2½ years, it was difficult to argue.

Today, the update on Graham's post-match number crunching from the New Den is less impressive. Last week, Arsenal bowed out of the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals, losing 1-0 against Liverpool at Anfield; on Wednesday, they were humbled 2-0 by Millwall in their FA Cup replay at Highbury. Dour displays, with not even an Ian Wright goal to savour, and Graham's defiant boast had been reduced to: played 12, won 7, drawn 3, lost 2.

Only the European Cup Winners' Cup, which they are defending, and the jolly Super Cup jaunt with AC Milan offer Arsenal any hope of adding to Graham's tally of six trophies in eight years as manager. Their challenge in the FA Carling Premiership has long disappeared and, unthinkable though it might be, Arsenal could yet be dragged screaming into the relegation struggle.

On the surface, Graham, 50, remains unruffled. Crises come and go, but never, since he succeeded Don Howe in May 1986, has he faced a predicament of such immediate and wide-ranging proportions.

"I won't crack," Graham said amid the FA Cup debris at Highbury on Wednesday. "I'm a hard working lad and I believe in fate. Perhaps all this has been sent to test me. But me resign? I think some people are in danger of getting carried away, aren't they?"

His reference to "all this" goes much deeper than only two league wins from 13 outings, almost three months without a home victory in the Premiership, a squad that contains too many thirty-somethings for comfort and the fact that Graham, beset by injuries and suspensions, has used 30 players in the Premiership this season, more than any other club. The red-and-white malaise has stained Highbury off the pitch, too.

Graham is the main figure of a far-reaching FA Premier League inquiry into allegations of financial irregularities involving players moving from Scandinavia to England.

FOURTH ROUND

JAN 28: *Burnley v Liverpool, Coventry City v Norwich City; Leeds United v Oldham Athletic; Luton Town v Southampton; *Manchester City v Aston Villa; *Manchester United v Wrexham; Millwall v Chelsea, Newcastle United v Swansea City; Nottingham Forest v Crystal Palace; Portsmouth v Leicester City; *Queens Park Rangers v West Ham United; Watford v Swindon Town*

JAN 29: *Bristol City v Everton, Tranmere Rovers v Wimbledon; *Sunderland v Tottenham Hotspur (BBC 1).*

JAN 30: *Sheffield Wednesday v Wolverhampton Wanderers (Sky)*

* *all-ticket matches*

It has been claimed that Graham accepted £285,000 — believing it to be an "unsolicited gift" — from the £1.57 million purchase of John Jensen, from Brondby, of Denmark, by Arsenal in August 1992. Graham has since said he has never "profited" from any Arsenal transfer, but the inquiry will report on its initial findings at the end of this month.

Apart from Ian Wright's ever-escalating disciplinary record — he was booked for the twelfth time this season on Wednesday and now faces another suspension — Arsenal have also had to endure the exceedingly public revelations surrounding Paul Merson. The England forward's self-confessed addictions to alcohol and gambling, and that he once used cocaine, have scarred Highbury's elegant marble hall still further.

Graham and Arsenal have stood by Merson, an admirable yet equally questionable trait. Over the years, the club has gained a reputation for tea and sympathy when dealing with similar miscreants. Yet how much longer, as the discord grows in the cheap seats, can it continue to forgive and forget?

Mick Coppock, editor of *Gunflash*, the official supporters' club magazine, for almost six years, reflects the more conservative view: "The feeling among the fans is split into two categories," he said. "There are those who are horrified at what is going on and reckon George must go. The others, myself included, still look at the six trophies in eight years and can't see how we could have become a bad side overnight. Before George came, we won nothing; at least while he's here, we've always got a chance."

Yeboah gets permission to play



Chapman: Ipswich move

ANTHONY YEBOAH completed his £3.4 million transfer from Eintracht Frankfurt to Leeds United yesterday when he was granted a work permit by the Department of Employment. Leeds have been trying for a fortnight to obtain a permit for Ghana football international striker.

Doubts had been raised about the move because of a release clause in the three-year contract should the player fail to settle at Elland Road, which would allow him to leave after a year.

Ipswich will today complete the signing of striker Lee Chapman from West Ham United in a £70,000 deal. Chapman, 35, will join Ipswich after a brief spell on loan at Southend.

Birmingham finally completed the signing of the Stockport striker, Kevin Francis, in an £800,000 deal after the player passed a medical yesterday. The deal initially broke down last month when Francis, who had been suffering from a knee problem, failed a medical, but he has since had an operation to clear the problem.

Chapple ponders future at Woking

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

WOKING begin their defence of the Umbro FA Trophy by taking on Chesham United, of the Diadora League, at Kingfield with the distraction of knowing that Geoff Chapple, their manager, has been approached by Aldershot Town in their search for a replacement for Steve Wignall. Aldershot have set a strict timetable. They say they have had 47 applicants, which they will cut to six next Tuesday, then three next Thursday, before announcing the new man in charge a week today.

Chapple said: "I don't want to leave Woking. Ten years is a long time. We've achieved a lot and I think there is much we can still do." He, however, admits his frustration at the lack of progress at finding Woking the new ground that they need to fulfil ambitions of reaching the Football League.

"We've been talking about it for three years and don't seem to be any further forward," Chapple said. He will be lending a particularly keen ear to the results of a meeting between the council and club scheduled for next Tuesday. "People ask me do I really want to drop back into the Diadora League," he said. "Sometimes you might have to take two steps back to go two steps forward."

Chesham are having a season of retrenchment after the end of the high-profile regime of the Aplin brothers that brought them the Diadora title in 1992-93. Under the chairmanship of David Pembroke, a local property developer, Bob Pearson, formerly the managing director at Slough Town, has rebuilt the team in partnership with the player-manager, Paul Roberts, the former Millwall and Colchester player.

Chelmsford City, of the Beazer Homes League premier division, take on Yeovil Town in a tie that represents a chance for another show of strength from their supporters. A crowd of 2,367 for the FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie against VS Rugby, which clinched a first round trip to Wycombe Wanderers, brought reminders of heady days of 1973, when nearly 16,000 people watched a Cup-tie against Ipswich Town.

The capacity was then 18,000. It is now 2,850 as safety considerations have sliced the number allowed in an ageing stadium, which the club may be occupying on borrowed time as it is now owned by a property company from which it has a one-year lease.

Clarke, the secretary, said: "Chelmsford 1980 was in the hands of the liquidators and the club would have gone under if a group of supporters hadn't got together to keep it alive." The new committee had to meet a debt to Harwich and Parkeston, which had brought a sine die ban from the FA, and place a £15,000 bond with the Beazer Homes League before being allowed to continue playing. "We still have to secure the club's future," Clarke said. "It may mean relocation."

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صحتنا من الاصل

Showman Norman leads the parade

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

GOLF courses can be inhospitable places in what is supposed to be the desert. The first round yesterday of the Desert Classic here, however, was blessed with a temperature of 80°F and a gentle offshore wind that blew out of a cloudless sky.

As a result, Greg Norman had a 64, Fred Couples a 65 and Nick Price a 66, eight, seven and six under par respectively, and took up positions at the head of the field. Ernie Els, the defending champion, had a 68, four under par.

The first day of the first event of the 1995 European Tour is a little like the first day of a new academic term. Norman, Couples and Price had little difficulty in enjoying themselves in, for them, a rather low-key event on a fine course that presented them with a none-too-stern test. They were as happy as sandboys and, no, it was not a mirage.

Norman, who began soon after breakfast, found time to chat to an American journalist between shots and Price playfully sprayed your correspondent with bottled water after driving from the 17th tee. "How is it?" Price asked with a grin, extending a hand to be shaken.

Leading scores from Dubai Page 38

At this event last year, Norman finished second despite suffering from an allergy. He looked drawn and pale and clearly was not at his best. This year he is. He practised well last week at The Medallist, a new members' golf club he has just designed, 12 minutes from his home on Jupiter Island in Florida, and one senses he would not mind at all if he beat Els, the South African.

At many clubs, if members do not like the course design, they can blame the architect. Not at The Medallist. Norman is architect, in conjunction with Pete Dye, part-owner and a member. He owns a one-third share of the club. "It's one of the toughest courses in the US," Norman said. "It is 7,400 yards from the back tees, par 72, and my best round is a 68. It has 250 members, it costs $75,000 (about £49,000) to join and £5,800 in annual dues."

Accurate long hitting and good putting underpinned Norman's score. He made it look so easy as, on his day, he can. The 547-yard 18th, for instance, a hole where almost everyone else took three strokes to reach the green, was within reach for Norman with no more than a drive and a three-iron.

Norman is a showman, one who likes to be the centre of attraction, and, with his strikingly fair hair, porcelain white teeth and relentlessly aggressive golf, he almost always is when he competes. He likes to give value for money.

His inward half of 30 ended with a typical Norman flourish — a five-iron shot picked cleanly from a bunker that travelled 183 yards and ended less than 20 feet from the flag. On a day when putting was easy, one of this distance presented no problem and Norman duly recorded his fifth birdie of the half and his ninth of his round.

Couples was another who competed here last year but, to his embarrassment, he missed the cut. He could hardly wait to return to the Emirates course to make amends and he played very well.

Missing the cut had not been a pleasurable experience, he then revealed. "I didn't come over here to be a TV commentator," Couples said, referring to the way in which he passed his Saturday and Sunday afternoons at this event in 1994. But then last year he had been 11 strokes behind when he teed off. Els having begun with a remarkable round of 61 which included 12 birdies, six in a row. When Couples started yesterday, Norman was five under par.

Price concluded his round as the sun begun to set. He went through most of his usual routines before hitting a shot, but a new one was to stand with his legs together and take a couple of practice swings. As usual, Squeaky Medlen, his caddy, was at his side. "I like it," he said in the voice that gives him his nickname as Price's second shot to the 16th came to rest two feet from the hole.

So, the tournament is on, as they say. Four of the best players in the world are bunched together at the head of the field. "This is the way it should be," Price said happily. "I hope we are in the same position on Sunday morning and then I hope I will go on to win the tournament by one stroke."

Jones capitalises on bird's-eye view

Barry Pickthall finds a reluctant hero providing a decisive advantage in the race for the America's Cup

The America's Cup campaigns this year are costing upwards of $20 million (about £13 million), yet the dominant technological device here in San Diego yesterday was almost as old as sailing itself: the crow's nest. With conditions off Point Loma so fickle that two other matches on the Louis Vuitton Cup challengers' course were abandoned, only Russell Coutts and his crew on *Team New Zealand*, with the mast-man, Murray Jones, posted at the masthead, managed to find a way to beat the deadline to the first mark and go on to win their match against John Bertrand's *oneAustralia* by the significant margin of 1min 36sec.

Yet the role Jones played, swinging 100ft above the deck, was obviously a reluctant one and may not be a regular feature when conditions are light. "I hope it is not," Murray said. "The only reason I am up there is because I am the lightest person in the boat. I'm trying to eat as much as I can."

On this occasion, Jones went up prepared for a long stay, taking his lunch with him. "I can see a lot of things up there, including where the wind is, but the real reason is to kick the sail battens over during the pre-start manoeuvres and downwind. We have ripped a lot of gennakers gybing downwind because they always get caught on the jumper struts and I have to clear that."

Jones's calls came into their own during the first beat after *Team New Zealand* managed to break away from *oneAustralia*'s close cover to pick up a fresher breeze out to the left of the course and pull out a one-minute lead.

"Murray did a nice job up there looking for wind on the water," Bertrand conceded. "From a tactical point of view, there is obviously a trade-off between weight and windage and the New Zealanders have decided it is worth it."

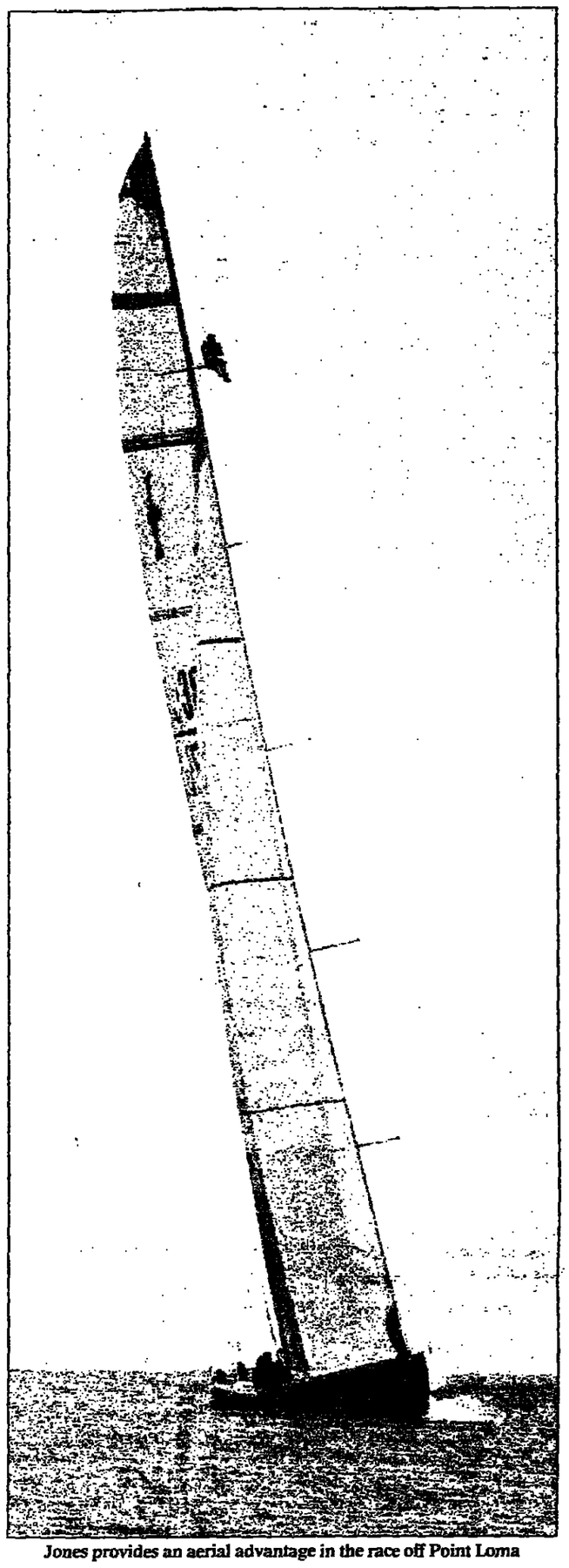
Jones was not impressed: "I just wish this job had never happened," he said after spending two hours aloft. "It certainly wasn't in my contract. I'm going to re-read it when I get home." He does not want the role to become his alone in the future.

This was *Team New Zealand*'s fourth straight win and *oneAustralia*'s second defeat in this initial round-robin series, making Coutts and his crew the undefeated leaders in the Louis Vuitton Cup.

"They have tuned their boat up so they can point higher upwind," Bertrand said. "It's a handy little edge and obviously a lot has gone into it. They have taken their tuning to another level of sophistication and I look forward to wracking our brains on how we are going to get to the next level as well."

On the defender course, Kevin Mahaney's Pact 95 team continued its winning ways, this time against *Stars & Stripes* on a day when Dennis Conner chose to take a back seat. Conner chose to play a tactical role and handed the wheel to Paul Cayard, but it made no difference towards stopping Mahaney's *Young America* from chalking up her third win in succession.

The only other time Conner has not taken the wheel in more than two decades of competing in America's Cup racing was during one defender trial aboard *Marina* in 1974. "Believe me, I wanted too, but then I wasn't the skipper," he said.



Jones provides an aerial advantage in the race off Point Loma

RADIO CHOICE

A Gothic tale of masonry

Friday Feature: A Paradise of Pinnacles. *Radio 3, 10.45pm.*

It has been said about the use of Perpendicular Gothic architecture in ecclesiastical and secular buildings that such structures never take long to examine because there is so much symmetry and repetition in them. Tonight's documentary implicity agrees with this generalisation: it runs for only 45 minutes. But what a lot of marvellous masonry it packs into them! The presenter, Joe Mordaunt Crook, literally takes the stylistic high ground to begin and end his survey. He is discovered among the pinnacles on the roof of King's College chapel, Cambridge, and when we take leave of him, he is on top of the tower of the parish church of Wrexham. Given the pictorial nature of this programme, it works so well on radio.

Stop Press. *Radio 5 Live. 10.05pm.*

Encouraged by the success of an earlier competition to find a promising sports writer, *Stop Press* is now coping with shoals of entries for the title Young Campaigning Journalist of the Year. Tonight's edition will be particularly valuable for would-be entrants because it includes a discussion between local newspaper editors. And it is local issues, albeit with a national appeal, that must inspire the 800-word entries from non-professional writers. The upper age limit is 22, and March 1 is the closing date. The competition is supported by the Guild of Editors and by Newspapers in Education, an arm of the Newspaper Society.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **6.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa L'Anson with the Lunchtime Show including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, including at **4.20** The Amazing Spiderman and at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel: Including a session from Kent group Spiritered **1.00am** The IFM Rap Show with Westwood

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Martin Kelner **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Maestro: Musical quiz **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** *Treasure Island* (2/10) **9.00** Listen to the Band: Frank Renton presents current *British Open Champions*, the BNFL Band under Richard Evans **10.00** Alan *Titchmarsh with the Radio 2 Arts Programme* **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes: featuring Brass Reality and the Azthony Kerr Group **1.00** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am *Morning Reports* **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl at **6.55** and **7.55** *Racing Preview* **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill, including at **9.40** *Video Review*; **10.35** *Euronews*; **11.00** Chain Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, including at **12.34pm** Liz Barclay with Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, with Sybil Ruscoe **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, including at **7.20** the day's sport in full **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **9.05** Off Piste **9.35** Now the Good News ... **10.05** Stop Press: See Choice **10.35** Financial Week **11.00** Night Extra, including at **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newshour **6.00** Morgenmagazin **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *Please* **7.30** Law at the Crossroads **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Global Concerns **9.30** On the Move **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** World Ranking **11.00** Newsdesk **11.15** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Law at the Crossroads **12.45** Sport **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: *Please* **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** News **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** News **7.05** Outlook **7.30** Law at the Crossroads **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Multitrack: Alternative **12.00** News **12.15am** Poets of Place **12.30** From the Weeklies **12.45** The Learning World **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Worldbnet **1.45** Jazz **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Joan Thirkettle **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Alan Mann **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyte **11.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Howard Pearce

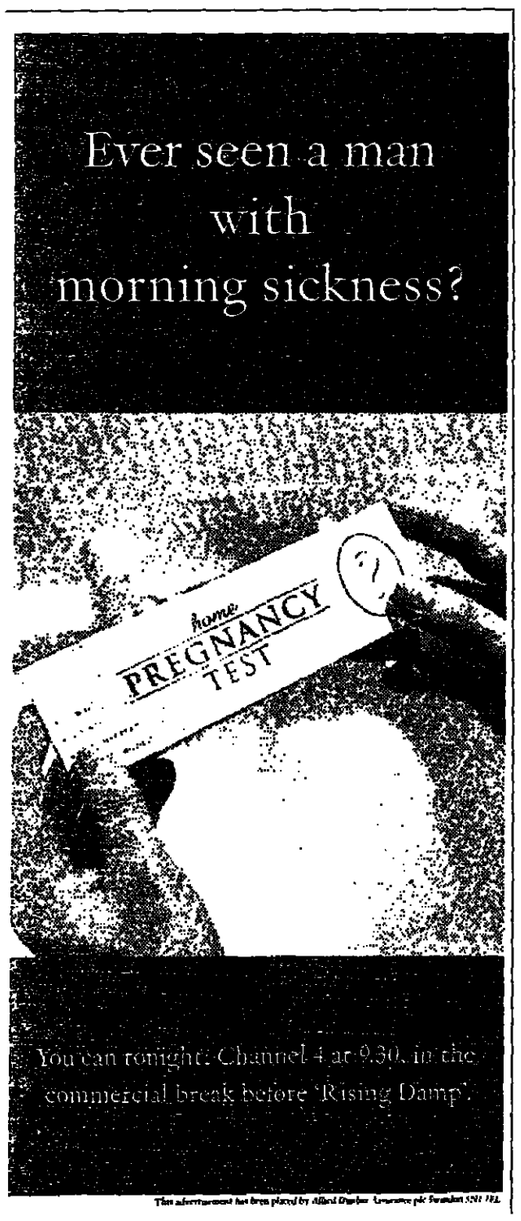
RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Strauss (Prelude, Capriccio); Kodály (Dances of Marosszek); Geminiani (Concerto grosso in D, Op 3: No 1); Bach (Overture, Suite No 4 in D, BWV 1069); Schubert (Ganymed, D544); Dohnányi (Variations on a Nursery Song, Op 25)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart. Piers Burton-Page presents surviving keyboard fragments on instruments of our own and Mozart's day
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. *Artist of the Week*: Anthony Halstead, harpischord/director. Abel (Symphony in F sharp, Op 17 No 6); **10.10** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D); Mozart (Quintet in E flat for piano and wind); **11.00** Janáček (Rikadla); Bernhard Stavenhagen (Piano Concerto); Weber (Concerto in E minor, Op 45: Anthony Halstead, horn; Hanover Band under Roy Goodman)
12.00 Voices: The Ulster-born soprano Heather Harper looks back over her career talking to Iain Burnside (r)
1.00pm St David's Hall Lunchtime Recital: Nicholas Vallis Davies, flute, Siân Vallis Davies, oboe, Paul Searle Barnes, piano, play Ibert (Two Interludes); Damase (Trio), Widor (Suite for flute and piano, Op 34); Gaubert (Tarantelle)
2.00 Schools: *The Song Tree*: Music Course 1 — The *Vanishing Hole* **2.15** *Together Stories* **2.30** Dance Workshop **2.50** *Poetry Corner*
3.00 Mining the Archive: John Amis introduces performances by famous Purcellians, including Thurston Dart, Patricia Clark and Ann Dowdall, Jennifer Vyvyan and Arnold Goldsborough
4.30 Haste to the Wedding: Margaret Bennett celebrates Scottish music of the wedding dance and the social gathering
5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Pearson, with Tanita Tikaram, looks at the enduring musical form of verse-and-chorus
5.15 In Tune: Natalie Wheen reports on the findings of the recent conference of the Association of British Orchestras
7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wales under David Atherton, with Bryn Terfel, baritone. Mozart (Symphony No 40 in G minor); Mahler (Kindertotenlieder); **8.25** Interval: Meirion Hughes on Elgar and the music critics of his day; **8.45** Elgar (Enigma Variations)
9.25 Face and Fantasy: Founding an English School
9.45 Insomnia: Ivan Moody introduces the Hilliard Ensemble in concert at Great St Mary's during its 1994 festival in Cambridge
10.45 Friday Feature: A Paradise of Pinnacles. See Choice
11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil, with Sarah Walker. Including Jonathan Harvey (Nataraja: From Silence); and tracks from the collaboration of Jan Garbarek, saxophone, Anouar Braham, oud, and Shaukat Hussain, tabla

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News; Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day, with the Rev Johnston McKay **6.30** Today including **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Phil Redmond (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00-10.30 News; The Lion in the Sand (FM only): Britain was at the forefront of oil exploration in Persia, Iraq and the Gulf in the opening decades of this century. But in the 1950s nationalism and revolution shattered the dreams
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only): Part ten of John Bunyan's classic (r)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Gail Foley
11.30 The Natural History Programme: presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm The Food Programme, presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather
1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: The Diary of Samuel Pepys. Dramatised in six episodes by Neville Smith (r)
3.00 News; Anderson Country
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Louisa Buck talks to the mime artist Marcel Marceau, and looks at an exhibition of the German artist Sigmar Polke
4.45 Short Story: Away from It All, written and narrated by Frederic Raphael (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week
8.05 Any Questions? Lisa Jardine, professor of English; Ian McAllister, chairman of the Ford Motor Company; Michael Portillo, Employment Secretary; and Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary; tackle the issues raised in Bedford. The chairman is Jonathan Dimbleby
8.50 Ninety Not Out: Ned Sherrin visits Vivian Ellis, composer of popular songs
9.15 Letter from America
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The tercentenary of Henry Purcell's death has sparked off a year-long celebration of British music on Radio 3. This programme examines Britain's unique musical heritage and previews some of the special events coming up during 1995 (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Quartered Safe Out Here. George MacDonald Fraser reads the fifth part of his recollections of the war in Burma
11.00 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news
11.25 Fourth Column
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey



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Hornby's confessions hit target



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* is the great sports book of the decade. It deals with the author's obsessional support for Arsenal and all things Arsenalesque, which include Liam Brady, the poet of the left foot, and Charlie George, superstar; also players of such egregious uselessness, they would qualify only to toss for Hampstead.

It begins in 1966.

Do you want to go to the cinema? father asks. No.

Walk in the park? No.

Football? ... Oh, all right.

But Chelsea were playing away, so it was Arsenal they went to see. And it remained Arsenal — long after father had ceased to be father: married another woman, moved to France, and the boy went to live in Maidenhead with mother and sister — Maidenhead that has about as many inhabitants as stand on the terraces at a home game ... but his heart belonged to Highbury.

Paternal visits meant watching Arsenal. Recurring nightmares were setting out for Wembley to see the Gunners in the Cup Final, leaving nice and early and getting the wrong train ... arriving at Derby.

It is a private book, a confession that Hornby thought at the time would be of interest only to those who could remember Ian Ure's costly back-pass in the 1969 League Cup final.

It charts his middle-class life, which involved putting on a Cockney accent every Saturday; graduating from the boys' enclosure to the North Bank where the trouble was. And a patina of other supporters' violence rubbed off on him — yeah — with which expression you punch the air with both arms.

School was all right "so long as you knew the name of the Burnley manager, no trauma". He went to Cambridge. There were women, drink, drugs, sex, for large chunks of the average day. But the lure of football proved stronger.

Arsenal signed Malcolm Macdonald, who had sideburns and ego. And in his room at Jesus College the boy switched on the radio, could not bear to listen to the commentary, heard mindless music while constantly looking at his watch so that he could switch back for the result.

He went to a shrink to get sorted out — "It is really Arsenal that needed to be sorted out." Shrinks do not understand football mania, certainly not Arsenal mania. "Have you ever had Seaman on the couch?" he asks the psychiatrist.

Fever Pitch was dramatised with a cast of one: Stephen North telling it like it was with the recorded voice of Desmond Lynam and canned frenzied applause to lend impact. Two acts, 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute half-time break.

I saw it at the Edinburgh Festival last August — a typical Fringe venue: platform stage, basic lighting, raked seating, full houses; up for an award. The audience was into theatre, into one-man shows, enjoyed being made use of, like when he pretends to recognise a girl in the fifth row as someone he had loved for four weeks and given up because he loved Arsenal more.

This week, *Fever Pitch* opened at the Arts Theatre in Great Newport Street, east of Leicester Square in London. I went to a preview. The audience was predominantly male, average age 30, smelling of sweat, beer and cheese and onion crisps. At half-time, the six men in the row behind me bought tubs of ice-cream and ate them without spoons.

"Charlie George superstar, don't cut his hair and should wear a bra," North sang. The men behind me knew the words. "Do you remember the FA Cup Final in 1978?" They nodded. Yeah. They punched the air, emitting a massive whiff of used armpit.

I think the play worked — though it will be interesting to see the reaction of paying theatre-goers rather than invited football supporters; but then supporting Arsenal, which has its ups and downs, is not unlike life (supporting Plymouth Argyle is more like death).

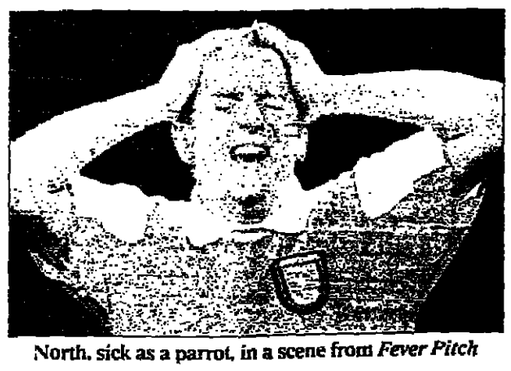
And much of the action was appreciated by everyone like the illustration of superstition: this Cambridge United supporter ("Come on the Us") went to watch his team every week, and every week they lost. One Saturday, on the way to the match, he goes to a sweet shop, buys a sugar mouse, bites off the head, spits it out, and Cambridge win 3-1. So every Saturday, on the way to the ground, he goes to the sweet shop ...

Brady is transferred to Italy. "*Arrivederce Liam.*" And one week he goes to a match and is buffeted among the crowd pushing to get through the turnstiles. "Nine years later, we heard about Hillsborough; we'd been riding our luck."

The audience nodded grimly. Hornby's story is that of the golden age of football support, which included benevolent hooliganism, which seldom erupted, but was frequently talked about.

Unlike a match where the crowd disperses once the result is clear, the Arts Theatre audience stayed to the end, and as one of the men who had been sitting behind me cannoned into an usherette on the way out, his friend said: "That was never a penalty."

The play gets you; not quite as much as the book got me, but it made me read it again.



North, sick as a parrot, in a scene from *Fever Pitch*

Take a bungee jump with the gas-guzzlers

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

In a car park in Detroit stands an official warning sign: "Owners of Foreign Cars Not Welcome". The penalty for disobedience is not specified, but the tone is plain: anyone sporting an "I Heart My Honda Civic" sticker in this proud former capital of the American car industry must expect tar and feathers at the very least.

No matter that the car park was empty anyway. Jeremy Clarkson's **Motorworld** (BBC 2) discovered last night in Detroit a city for which the Cadillac fin and Motown were the long-gone twin peaks; and for which violence and inner-city desolation is the current reality. Nobody's dancing in the street, these days, not even Martha and the Vandellas. Former auto workers drink in poolhalls and crack jokes. From motor capital of America, this city has become murder capital of the world. At night, when cars hot-rod illegally down Main Street, it's reminiscent of *The Cars That Ate Paris*.

All of which was handy for Clarkson, a trustworthy chap in jeans and open-necked shirt, whose enthusiasm for cars seems tempered by a refreshing awareness that automobiles are only pieces of moulded tin, set on wheels and tarted up. Clarkson clearly adores Detroit, and in particular loves being rude about the big, fuel-guzzling American cars which contributed to the industry's collapse. At the wheel of a geometrically squared-off, immensely long "town car" he demonstrated its ridiculous suspension by accelerating, then slamming to a stop, shrugging at the camera as the car bounced and veered as if it had just made a bungee jump.

The good news was that the American car industry is picking up, though not in the centre of Detroit, despite the Mayor's intriguing point that the city had only been Murder Capital of the World *once*. Happily, Clarkson drove some new American success stories, though never letting his critical faculties slip: the new Ford Mustang he dubbed "all mouth and no trousers", which just goes to show that no corner of factual programmes is now immune from clever-dicks. It would be good to see the sceptical Clarkson really let his hair down, but I suspect he may need a few pints inside him. Given all the precision driving required, this may be awkward.

At last I have caught up with the American import **The X Files** (BBC 2), and can understand why its cult following has grown up. Here is a formula that can hardly fail. An FBI agent (Mulder, played by David Duchovny) has all the resources to investigate supernatural, twilight-zone occurrences — those occurrences that the real-life FBI famously suppresses. But like Agent Cooper in *Twin Peaks*, Mulder is a man with a mind as wide open as a French door, whose personal credo is that "the truth is out there", so whoopee, he's a space cadet with the power of arrest. Far from hatching wicked cover-ups and conspiracies, he is positively amazed that conspiracies and cover-ups exist. What else? Yes, he is drop-dead gorgeous, which helps. Plus his assistant Dana is in love with him, but tragically never says.

On the other hand, I still have no idea why anyone watches **99-1** (ITV), in which laconic undercover cop Raynor (Leslie Grantham) grumps and stares his way through a similar web of intrigue, complications and paranoia, and all without once pausing for essential acting lessons. Last night's intricate plot involved a mad, sadistic Falklands veteran and arms dealer (Michael Jayston, making free with a riding crop), and a consignment of "auto parts" which were really Kalashnikovs, and Raynor infiltrated the villains by a ploy so cunning that it was *as though it never happened* (it didn't). He just was offered a job by the madman, said "All right, Mister Madman, what would you like me to do?" and thereafter operated from the inside. Grantham's personal best moment was assuming his disgusted, Dirty-Den curly-lip thing, when shown the black, severed ears of vanquished Argentinians (war trophies). However, disgusted and glassy is Grantham's natural expression; dramatically speaking, it comes in handy quite rarely.

Ho hum. Back on BBC 2, **Situation Vacant** took us aboard the cruise liner *Canberra*, where four nice-looking people called Claire, Julia, Stuart and Kenneth competed for the job of Entertainments Officer (ie. Red Coat). Unsportingly, Julia dropped out of the running when she said she couldn't stick the passengers "moaning" all the time. When they "moaned" about their chicken à la king, for instance, she felt like pointing out there were people starving in the world, which is not the line an all-smiling entertainments officer is supposed to take. *(NB: Why do the passengers "moan" all the time? Should the Canberra perhaps take note?)* Anyway, Claire said that personally she could listen to the "moaning" without letting it bother her. Claire got the job.

Each week there is one winner and three brave, crushed losers. *Situation Vacant* is like *Gladiators* without the Lycra — big talk followed by ritual humiliation, then plucky acceptance. The disappointed never yell "It's a poxy job anyway!" (which was certainly true this week). Instead, they tend to mumble something insincere about a learning experience. Anyway, last night's highlighted loser was Kenneth, who had foxtrotted till dawn in deck lounges, poor love, yet seemingly got zero reward. Just before the credits, however, we were told that he subsequently got a job on the *Canberra* and is now an entertainments officer on a world cruise! He got the poxy job after all! The news filled one's heart with joy.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (38198)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News *(18392440)*

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) *(8667136)*

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1545556) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick.** Weekday magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (85817730)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7098204) **12.05 Pebble Mill.** Gloria Hunniford talks to Doris Day at her home in the Carmel Valley, California (s) (3094469) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (78479933)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (33694)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (91126662) **1.50 Timekeepers.** Quiz show with Bill Dod (s) (91137778)

2.15 Holiday. Includes reports on a Caribbean island-hopping trip and a canoeing expedition in France (r). (Ceefax) (s) (852391) **2.45 The Flying Doctors.** Australian medical drama series (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5655285)

3.30 Cartoon (5356020) **3.45 Bitsa** (5351575) **4.00 Jackanory.** Sandi Toksvig with the first of five readings from her own *Amber the Viking* (r) (s) (6272933) **4.10 Rugrats** (s) (2196827) **4.25 The Borrowers** (r). (Ceefax) *(5674876)*

4.55 Newsround Extra. Paul Welsh with an on-the-spot report from *Japan's earthquake disaster zone* (7409575) **5.10 Grange Hill.** (Ceefax) (s) (1380440)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) *(413662)*

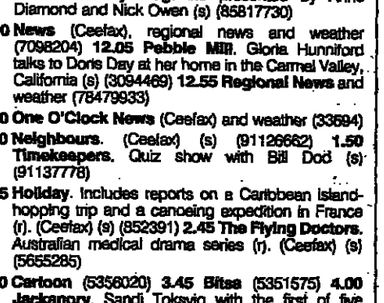
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (391)

6.30 Regional news magazines (643)

7.00 Wipeout. Game show presented by Paul Daniels. (Ceefax) (s) (9376)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Viewers have the chance to devise the scientific experiments that will be tested in the Megalab UK in March. (Ceefax) (s) (827)

8.00 Only Fools and Horses. When Rodney falls in love he does not appreciate brother Del's helping hand. Starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r). (Ceefax) (8556)



Gary Olsen as Dr Michael Jimson (8.30pm)

8.30 Health and Efficiency. Hospital comedy series starring Gary Olsen, Felicity Montagu and Roger Lloyd Pack. (Ceefax) (s) (8391)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8759)

9.30 [redacted] FILM: The Plant. (Ceefax) (s) (6902469). **Wales:** All Our Lives 10.00 Film: The Plant 11.25 Five Nations Rugby Union Preview 11.50-1.20am Film: Psycho III

10.55 Five Nations Rugby Union Preview presented by Eddie Butler (328759)

11.20 FILM: Psycho III (1986) starring Anthony Perkins and Diana Scarwid. A run-on-the-run has the misfortune to take refuge in the Bates Motel, again under the management of Norman, supposedly back to normal after years of therapy. Directed by Anthony Perkins. (Ceefax) (s) (886759)

12.50am Weather (2441191)

BBC2

7.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (r) (4574759) **7.05 Bump** (r) *(4556730)* **7.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant** (R). (Ceefax) (8823285) **7.35 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1053285)

8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (8951759)

8.15 The Record. Yesterday's proceedings in Parliament (7303049)

8.35 Consuming Passions. Basic rice (7384001) **8.40 The Time of Your Life.** Series from Canada on adventurous older people (4015865)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Including, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (5560579) **2.00** Johnson and Friends (41336001)

2.10 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. Skiing: the women's world cup downhill from Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy; Rugby Union: a preview of the Five Nations championship; Football: a round-up of this week's FA Cup third round replays. Includes **News** and weather at **3.00** (433285) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (6002353)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) *(556)*

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (440)

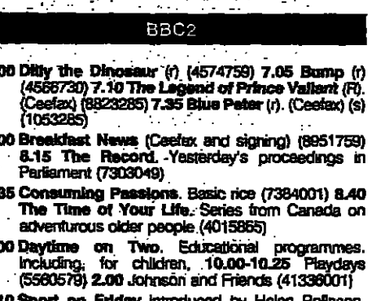
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A trip through the archives features guests including Elizabeth Taylor and Dolly Parton (s) *(3544440)*

5.40 Decisions. Rabbi Lionel Blue on why he "came out" about his homosexuality (s) (411339)

6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (r). (Ceefax) (951488) **6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (318575)

7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (s) (514391)

7.30 Sounds of the Sixties (r) (s) (469)



Lynn Woodward, a River Wye ghillie (8.00pm)

8.00 [redacted] Countrywomen: The Dragonmaster. (Ceefax) (4198)

8.30 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens. The Barnsdale gardening guru visits Yvonne Bell's garden in Peterborough. (Ceefax) (6933)

9.00 Bottom. Comedy series starring Adrian Edmondson and Rik Mayall. (Ceefax) (s) (9001)

9.30 The High Life. Comedy about the cockpit and cabin crew of an airliner. (Ceefax) (89136)

10.00 The Day Today. Spoof current affairs series (r). (Ceefax) (44575)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (599136)

11.15 Fantasy Football League (s) (190198)

11.45 Duckman. Adult animation adventures (s) (589049)

12.10am Weather (9089402)

12.15 The Fugitive *(b/w). Classic man-on-the-run drama* starring David Janssen. (Ceefax) (5055605). Ends at **1.00**

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CHOICE



Valentine Pelka and Joanna Roth (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Screen One: The Plant
BBC1, 9.30pm

Writer-director Jonathan Lewis has concocted one of those disconcerting dramas that start serenely enough and then abruptly take a dark and disturbing turn. A television company is at work in a well-heeled suburban street, the location for a popular gardening programme. The sun shines from a cloudless sky and everybody is happy, not least Connie (Joanna Roth), the programme's researcher, who enjoys a tastefully photographed affair with one of the residents. Then a spade hits something gruesome, the police move in and the placid neighbourhood is thrown into turmoil. Even a miniature garden railway is pulled into a cleverly worked mystery which Lewis keeps nicely bubbling until ready to reveal his ingenious solution.

The 3,000 Mile Garden
Channel 4, 8.00pm

In an echo of *84 Charing Cross Road*, Roger Phillips and Leslie Land correspond from opposite sides of the Atlantic. The difference is that the subject is horticulture, not books. Phillips is a gardener and cook who lives in London. Land earns her living as a gardening and food writer, based in Maine. They met at a conference on mushrooms and their letters have been crossing the water ever since. The television version of this interchange opens in January and finds Phillips cooking a ham in a leaf heap (the temperature is 140 degrees Fahrenheit) while Land checks over storm damage in a snowy New England. As with *84 Charing Cross Road* an improbable formula provides quietly satisfying entertainment.

Countrywomen: The Dragonmaster
BBC2, 8.00pm

Tonight's gatecrasher into a male world is Lynn Woodward. She is a ghillie, but if this conjures up visions of a Scottish manservant she is certainly not that. Her workplace is a fishery on the River Wye and her job is to look after the fishermen, taking them out in a rowing boat, advising them where the fish are and what bait to use. She calls all her customers "sir" or "madam" and says the formality makes it easier to tick them off. Since many of them are people with more money than sense or knowledge, scolding is part of the routine. Woodward, who followed her father into the trade against his advice, is a model television subject, confident, forthright and funny. She is also honest about the pleasure and pain of killing wildlife.

Ellen
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The American comedy returns for a second series but if you were asked to pinpoint its rationale that would be difficult. The heroine, engagingly played by Ellen DeGeneres, runs a bookshop, though you never see her selling any books. She is thirtyish, a bit loopy, rolls her eyes and has a dazzling smile. In this episode she makes a pass at her dentist but immediately regrets it. Perhaps the idea is that she is destined to remain unattached, though this seems to be more by accident than design. She is not an obvious recruit for the feminist cause. While she tries to avoid male attachments, her room mate pursues girls like there is no tomorrow. But he cannot decide whether he wants to keep them. It is very puzzling. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV (3291339)

9.25 Chain Letters Word game (4770914) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2110858)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (9055020)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine (32993933) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7094488)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7453845)

12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (7461865) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (34526730)

1.55 Chrystal's Style Guide In the last of three programmes, Chrystal Rose takes three families and prepares them for a party at a top London hotel (s) (65097894) **2.25 Country Practice** (s) (17865204)

2.50 Take the High Road (6886865) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (5315136) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5314407)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (5358488) **3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon** (5346643) **4.00 Zzzap!** (s) (2192643) **4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures** (4216914) **4.40 Virtually Impossible** (Teletext) (s) (3543407)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (7570402)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (408865)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (948914)

6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (665020)

7.00 Catchphrase with Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (5204)

7.30 Coronation Street. Ken takes the law into his own hands. (Teletext) (223)



DS Deakin (Shaun Scott) investigates (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Hard Knocks. WPC Marshall (Lynne Miller) and DS Deakin (Shaun Scott) take part in an undercover operation. (Teletext) (4952)

8.30 The Upper Hand. Caroline's snooty grandmother comes to meet her granddaughter's intended. With Joe McGann and Diane Weston. (Teletext) (s) (5989)

9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Glass Virgin. In the final episode Manuel is dragged to prison for assaulting the man who was trying to rape his new bride. (Teletext) (s) (5391)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (31001)

10.30 FILM: When the Time Comes (1987) starring Bonnie Bedelia and Terence O'Quinn. A woman with incurable cancer asks her husband to help her to end her painful existence. Directed by John Erman (40165204)

12.20am London Tonight (Teletext) (4626063)

12.30 One to One. Dave Stewart talks to Gary Davies (2517353)

1.05 The James Whale Show (s) (2384537)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (1407470)

3.00 Noisy Mothers. Rock and heavy metal music magazine (s) (9889686)

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. A review of the latest American films (9128353)

4.30 The New Music featuring the film *Backbeat*, based on the life of former Beatle Stuart Sutcliffe (99150)

5.30 ITN Morning News (85976). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Once Upon A Time — Life (8907488)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (23117)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (58778)

9.30 Schools: Eureka! (8781001) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8786556) **10.00** Fourways Farm (1592846) **10.10** Maths Everywhere (9391020) **10.25** Eurokids (9396575) **10.40** Off Limits (3446223) **11.05** Schools at Work (7416285) **11.11** Time for Maths (9276943) **11.22** Stage One (9171399) **11.40** How We Used to Live (9790730)

12.00 Profiles Of Nature: Arctic Nursery. How the denizens of the Arctic manage to rear their young in one of the world's harshest environments (r) (38914)

12.30 Sesame Street (21865)

1.30 The Magic Roundabout, The Wombles, Paddington and **Noggin the Nog** (48447515)

1.55 Fatal Glass Of Beer (b/w). A comedy short starring W.C. Fields (91129759)

2.20 FILM: The Amorous Prawn (1962, b/w) starring Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker, Ian Carmichael and Dennis Price. Comic farce about the impoverished wife of a general who turns their official Scottish Highland residence into a luxury hotel catering for American guests. Directed by Anthony Kimmins (Teletext) (418001)

4.00 Travelog (r). (Teletext) (s) (952)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (136)

5.00 Camargue. The final part of the series on the wildlife of the southern France wetlands (r) (2117)

6.00 Blossom (r). (Teletext) (s) (371)

6.30 Movievatch with Johnny Vaughan (s) (681)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (508556)

7.50 You Don't Know Me But . . . Ken Stronach, the Prince of Wales's former valet, is taken to task for his act of betrayal (586914)



Leslie Land and Roger Phillips (8.00pm)

8.00 [redacted] The 3,000 Mile Garden. (Teletext) (2594)

8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (1001)

9.00 [redacted] Ellen: The Dentist. (Teletext) (s) (1468)

9.30 Rising Damp. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter as a seedy landlord (r) (Teletext) (74204)

10.00 Roseanne. (Teletext) (s) (39643)

10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole. With guest Gary Webster from *Minder* (r). (Teletext) (s) (865681)

11.05 The Word (s) (115933)

12.10am Beavis and Butthead. Animated rock video reviews (s) (1676599)

12.40 FILM: A Street To Die (1985) starring Chris Haywood, Jennifer Cluff and Peter Hehir. Emotional drama about an injured war veteran battling bureaucracy for compensation with the help of his close-knit family. Directed by Bill Bennett (221063)

2.20 FILM: Ellery Queen, Master Detective (1940, b/w) starring Ralph Bellamy. The debonair detective investigates a murder at a health resort for the wealthy. Directed by Kurt Neumann (1166228) Ends at **3.30**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (91121117) 2.20 Gardens without Borders (17857285) 2.50-3.20 Wish You Were Here..? (6886865) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7570402) 6.25-7.00 Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (665020) 10.40 Who Dares Wins (48111643) 1.00am *The New Music (12792)* 2.00-3.00 The James Whale Show (14334) 4.00 Cue the Music (56745) 5.00-5.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (28860)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91121117) 2.20 Wish You Were Here..? (17857285) 2.50-3.15 Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (7586952) 5.10-5.40 Eye TV (7570402) 5.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (665020) 10.40 Central Weekend (3880092) 12.10am-1.05 Renegade (5049680) 2.00 The Chart Show (6552529) 2.55-3.55 Noisy Mothers (9438537) 4.25 Jobfinder (4561334) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (2902773)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (7481865) 1.25 Home and Away (51314001) 1.50 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (6606285) 2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (6868865) 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road (7570402) 6.25 Granada Tonight (442402) 6.50 Kick Off (907952) 7.00-7.30 Catchphrase (5204) 10.35 Spellbinder (40164575) 12.25am Grapevine (1682537) 12.55 Brand New Heavies - In Profile (4483975) 1.05 The James Whale Show (2384537) 2.05 The Chart Show (1407470) 3.00 Noisy Mothers (9889686) 3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9128353) 4.30-5.30 The New Music (99150)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (2110859) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV West News and Weather (7094488) 1.55 *Take the High Road* (6509794) 2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (5211543) 3.25-3.30 HTV West Headlines (5314407) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (7570402) 6.30-7.00 HTV News (339) 10.40 Late and Live (1067814) 12.05am-1.05 Father Dowling Investigates (5034112)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 9.55-10.00 HTV Wales News (2110858) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV Wales News and Weather (7094488) 3.25-3.30 HTV News (5314407) 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (339) 10.30 HTV Wales News and Weather (2473911) 10.40 The Calendar Girl Murders (40145440) 12.35am-1.05 *The Hidden Room* (9056792)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91121117) 2.20-2.50 Heirloom (17857285) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7570402) 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (71117) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (31001) 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (2473911) 10.40 Six Tree (152402) 11.10 Last Rites (8052223) 1.00am *The New Music (12792)* 2.00-3.00 The James Whale Show (14334) 4.00 Cue the Music (56745) 5.00-5.30 Freescreen (28860)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (2110858) 12.20pm-12.30 Westcountry News (7094488) 1.55 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (6606285) 2.50-3.20 A Country Practice (7567223) 3.25-3.30 Westcountry News; Weather (5314407) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7570402) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (71117) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (31001) 10.30 Westcountry News; Weather (2473911) 10.40 Trail of the Pink Panther (40161488) 12.30am-1.05 Coach (2517353)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91121117) 2.20 Murder, She Wrote (5221030) *3.10 Help Yourself (5819952)* 3.15-3.20 Five Minutes (5318223) 3.25-3.30 Calendar News (5314407) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7570402) 5.55 Calendar / Network North (9432855) 6.30-7.00 Cryer's Crackers (339) 10.30 Calendar News and Weather (2473911) 10.40 Married with Children (152402) 11.10 The Hidden Room (6022204) 11.40 The Bob (5507778) 1.20am The James Whale Show (2373421) 2.20 The Big E (6905402) 3.15 Spare the Rod (359247) 4.50 Sportsworld (18251976) 5.15-5.30 Nite Bites (5501957)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (23117) 9.00 You Bet Your Life (58778) 9.30 Yogotton (317556) 12.00pm Profiles Of Nature: Arctic Nursery (38914) 12.30 Sbot Meilirin (54440) 1.00 Sesame Street (82223) 2.00 Wide Feather (100310) 3.55 The Pulse (3055939) 4.30 Saved By The Bell (136) 5.00 5 Pump (6310) 5.30 Countdown (488) 6.00 Newyddion (882907) 6.20 Heno (855643) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (3946) 7.30 Rhegor O Wynt (885) 8.00 Cath Gwlad John Bont (2594) 8.30 Newyddion (1001) 9.00 Pawb A I Fam (768778) 9.45 Snapshots, Sheila Hancock (188010) 10.00 Brookside (89643) 10.30 Jo 'Brand Through The Cakehole (865681) 11.05 The Word (824469) 12.05am Beavis And Butt-head (1677226) 12.35 A Street To Die (945131) 2.20 Ellery Queen, Master Detective (1166228)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (80223) **8.00** The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (85223) **8.30** The DJ Kat Show (4729001) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (3730449) **9.30** Card Sharks (100200) **10.00** Concentration (8165223) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (8447196) **10.30** Candid Camera (74730) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75584) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (96310) **12.30pm** E Street (21186) **1.00** St Elsewhere (19391) **2.00** Heroes — The Return (19440) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (9862556) **3.58** DJ Kat (1457020) **4.15** Power Rangers (49413772) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3865) **6.00** Gamesworld (8049) **6.30** Blockbusters (2001) **7.00** E Street (4594) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6285) **8.00** *The Andrew Newton Hypnotic Experience* (2894) **8.30** Coppers (9049) **9.00** Chicago Hope (43372) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (53758) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (715372) **11.45** Littlejohn (432662) **12.30am** Chances (41228) **1.30** Night Court (17773) **2.00** Hitmix Long Play (4335570)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

8.00am Sunrise (9441049) **9.30** Worldwide Report (76468) **10.30** ABC Nightline (72372) **1.30pm** CBS News (55407) **2.30** Parliament Live (93845) **3.30** The Lords (1597) **5.05** Littlejohn (579759) **5.30** *Financial Times* Reports (91894) **11.30** CBS News (45885) **12.30am** ABC News (33570) **1.30** *FT Reports* (11808) **2.30** Parliament (71315) **3.30** This Week in the Lords (76890) **4.30** CBS News (22402) **5.30-8.00** ABC News

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (2301196) **10.00 Out on a Limb** (1992) (25652) **12.00 We Joined the Navy** (1962) (23643) **2.00pm The Girl from Petrovka** (1974) (77339) **4.00 Bloomfield** (1969) (5469) **6.00 Out on a Limb: As 10am** (761219) **7.40** *US Top Ten* (884953) **8.00 Ice** (1991) (52020) **10.00 Out for Justice** (1991) (869643) **11.35 Operation Condor: Armour of God II** (1992) (8407778) **1.25am Silent Thunder** (1992) (2009334) **2.55 Alligator II — The Mutation** (1990): Monster yarn (8198082) **4.25 Bloomfield: As 4pm** (5908697)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm One Million Years BC (1966) (22827) **8.00 Horse Soldiers** (1959) (34958) **10.00-12.00 Racing with the Moon** (1984) (94556)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am A Tree Grows In Brooklyn (1945) (16229448) **8.10 The Elm-chanted Forest** (1991) (5781285) **9.40 The Emperor's New Clothes: Animation** (3868136) **10.35 Baby, Take a Bow** (1934) (9884440) **11.50 Young People** (1940) (30407778) **1.10pm The Last Three I Saw Archie** (1961) (91059407) **2.50 Interlude** (1957) (9706594) **4.20 The Elm-Chanted Forest:** *As 8.10am (3918198)* **5.45 Moonstruck** (1987) (19682730) **7.30 The Movie Show** (4223) **8.00 Trapped Beneath the Earth** (1993) (88832827) **9.35 Passenger 57** (1993) (4037488) **11.00 Teenster Boss: The Jackie Pressor Story** (1992) (110914) **12.50am The Lover** (1992): Marguerite Duras's erotic love story stars Jane March (590570) **2.45 Afraid of the Dark** (1991) (3823315) **4.20-6.00 Interlude:** As 2.50pm (737266)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (1045594) **7.15** WWF Action Zone (827827) **8.15** Soccer News (2114198) **9.30** Adrenalin Adventures (29865) **9.00** Freestyle Skiing (10117) **9.30** Aerobics. Oz Style (38001) **10.00** Opposite Lock (848576) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (29681) **12.30pm** NBA Basketball (23285) **2.30** Powerboat World (31020) **3.30** American Sports (18488) **4.30** Transworld Sport (68730) **5.30** World Soccer Magazine (5394) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (57136) **7.00** The Big League — Live: Bradford Northern v Wigan (138001) **9.30** Andy Gray's Boomtown (93407) **10.30** World Soccer Magazine (98830) **11.00** Soccer Weekend (10925) **12.00** The Big League (17150) **2.00-5.00am** Andy Gray's Bootroom (78570)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00pm Mex Out (8247581) **8.30** NBA Action (8236933) **7.00** Cycling (8273579) **7.30** Freestyle Skiing (8234117) **8.00** Powerboat World (4452953) **9.00** European Golf (4455730) **11.00** World Sport Special (7321558) **11.30-12.00** Cycling (8383852)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Eurofun (97730) **8.00** Tennis (98310) **9.30** Live Alpine Skiing (50843) **11.30** Live Tennis (1782730) **5.30pm** Alpine Skiing (79894) **6.30** News (8827) **7.00** *International Motorsports* (55010) **8.00** Boxing (87730) **9.00** Tennis (55074) **10.00** Golf (54321) **11.00** Rally Raid (94643) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (59599)

SKY TRAVEL

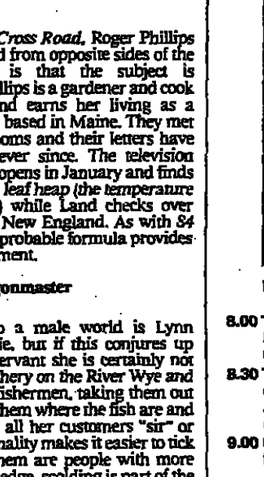
12.00 Getaway — Australia (2807556) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (8033991) **1.00** Dive — Bermuda (4151136) **1.30** Piers Feney's Cooking in America (8032662) **2.00** The Great Escape (6378943) **2.30** Round Trip — Switzerland (8246952) **3.00** American Vacation (7334020) **4.00** Travel Guide Preview — Iceland Week (8237204) **4.30** *Kids Down Under* (8233488) **5.00** The Great Escape (2673335) **5.30-6.00** Cooking in America (8217440)

SKY SOAP

6.00am Loving (2804469) **6.30** Peyton Place (2896440) **9.00** As the World Turns (8645865) **10.00** Guiding Light (41378556) **11.00** Another World

TLC

9.00am A Brush with Ashley (7279001) **9.30** *Madelaine Cooks (2641827)* **10.00** *Talking Heads* (4376204) **10.30** Only Human (2969556) **11.30** We Are Your Neighbours (2101117) **12.00** Power of Healing (2364778) **1.00pm** Madelaine Cooks (7345865) **1.30** A Brush with Ashley (2644914) **2.00** Parents Talking (9731317) **2.30** Discovering Psychology (7472627) **3.00** Gardens without Borders (2222042) **3.30-4.00** *The Secret Life of Machines* (7477372)



Donny and Marie Osmond together (Bravo, 1.30pm)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (7348352) **7.30** Neighbours (7334756) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7288135) **8.30** EastEnders (7237407) **9.00** The Bill (7288759) **9.30** All Creatures Great and Small (2293681) **10.30** Casualty (2961914) **11.30** No Place Like Home (2103575) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7291223) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2847001) **1.00** EastEnders (7347223) **1.30** The Bill (2846372) **2.00** Dear John (7931335) **2.30** Just Good Friends (7474265) **3.00** Knots Landing (2107391) **4.00** Dynasty (2193198) **5.00** Every Second Counts (3181730) **5.35** Top of the Pops (2078556) **5.55** Porridge (7453001) **6.30** EastEnders (7499594) **7.00** Dear John (3331371) **7.30** Father, Dear Father (7495778) **8.00** My Name is Harry Worth (3531578) **8.30** Fresh Fields (8381876) **9.00** Casualty (9457372) **10.00** The Bill (7292952) **10.30** Top of the Pops (8854482) **11.10** Carrott Confidential (5233907) **11.50** Dr Who (7773310) **12.25am** FILM: *House of Games* (4606805) **2.00-7.00** Shopping at Night (54356978)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (9408730) **6.55** Garfield and Friends (3644933) **7.25** Eek the Cat (9857020) **7.55** Pugwall (5215001) **8.25** Super Mario (6475488) **8.45** Casper (3686643) **9.00** Sesame Street (82469) **10.00** It's Drobee Time (85933) **12.00** Garfield (67049) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (76285) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (55338) **1.30** Super Mario Brothers (15788335) **1.45** Baby Follies (24234240) **2.00** Barney (6136) **2.30** Babar (3778) **3.00** Casper (6389049) **3.15** Where's Wally (563020) **3.45** Sonic (562391) **4.15** Head to Head (4848440) **4.30-5.00** Pugwall (3914)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Nickelive (1043136) **7.15** Pee-Wee (665827) **7.45** Rugrats (664198) **8.15** Doug (759730) **8.45** Nickelive (9379469) **9.00** Nick Jr (4592488) **12.00** Pee-Wee (21223) **12.30pm** The Muppet Show (47758) **1.00** Galaxy High School (804401) **1.30** Banana Splits (39720) **2.00** Denver (27781) **2.30** Smoggies (3200) **3.00** Nick Faves (1285) **3.30** *Hero Turtles* (4865) **4.00** Doug (3372) **4.30** Rugrats (9556) **5.00** Clarissa (6730) **5.30** Alex Mack (3136) **6.00** Grimmy (3579) **6.30-7.00** Dracula (4001)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Earth Tremors (3815914) **4.45** Encyclopedia Galactica (99874952) **5.00** Rediscovering America (6581894) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (2653662) **7.00** Ambulance! (5131353) **7.30** *A Traveller's Guide to the Orient* (7486020) **8.00** Jurassica (8836961) **8.30** Terra X (2528878) **9.00** The Quintessential Englishman (9455914) **10.00** Future Quest (7290594) **10.30** Next Step (7276914) **11.00** First Flights (2182469) **11.30-12.00** The X-Planes (4372486)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: *Invasion of the Animal People* (1962) (7064925) **1.30pm** The Donny and Marie Show (2631440) **2.00** The Avengers (4371758) **3.00** My Three Sons (6686448) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (7471196) **4.00** FILM: What a Crazy World (1963) (2086484) **6.00** The Protectors (7493310) **6.30** Edgar Wallace (2558196) **7.30** Saber of London (7480848) **8.00** The Avengers (3462204) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (9442440) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Frogs (1972) (2191730)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (2220440) **7.00** Living Magazine (2330776) **8.00** Rosemary Conley (1983204) **8.15** Everyday Yoga (1953827) **8.30** *The Truth About Women* (7544285) **9.00** Marco (4766285) **9.35** Now You See It (7053865) **10.00** Trivia Trap (4506814) **10.30** Susan Powter (7564049) **11.00** The Young And The Restless (3477407) **12.00** Rendezvous (6790961) **12.35pm** Kilroy (2115020) **1.30** Family Affairs (4298556) **2.00** Agony Hour (4507643) **3.00** Living Magazine (4556117) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (8794573) **4.00** Intervalsoon (5564933) **4.30** Trivial Trap (10788575) **4.55** Eating Out with John Tovey (2444814) **5.30** Kate and Allie (5551489) **6.00** Susan Powter (5574310) **6.30** Now Mr and Mrs Shaw (5585662) **7.00** Living Magazine (7719515) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (5718335) **9.00** FILM: Held Hostage (1991) (2569612) **11.00** Now Mr and Mrs Shaw (7478778) **11.30-12.00** Intervalsoon UK (4502196)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Danger Mouse (7488) **5.30** Blade Warriors (150488) **6.25** All Clued Up (376759) **7.00** *Trivial Pursuit (6092)* **7.30** My Two Dads (4643) **8.00** Road to

صكذا من الاصل

MOTOR RACING 41
WENDLINGER REFLECTS ON LIFE AFTER A BRUSH WITH DEATH

SPORT

GOLF 42
NORMAN BLOWS HOT TO LEAD DESERT CLASSIC

FRIDAY JANUARY 20 1995

Audience warms to American after Bates wilts in the heat

Service as usual for showman Agassi

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

ONLY one competitor was evidently having fun at the Australian Open yesterday. Andre Agassi, the showman playing up to a new tennis audience, turned the second match of his first appearance in the tournament into an amusing exhibition. He was lucky, though. He was playing in the relative cool of the night.

In the fierce heat of the day, during which the temperature was measured at more than 90°F in the shade, a couple of seeds and Britain's lone survivor wilted. Even those who did reach the third round talked of discomfort as they recovered from their ordeals.

Agassi was spared. The main attraction brought in to fill the centre court at Flinders Park, he indulged in charming a crowd of about 12,000, the largest for an evening session, once he had made sure that he would avoid the indignity of being embarrassed by a qualifier, Jerome Golmard.

Full results from Flinders Park 38

Standing a couple of games away from the formal conclusion of a straightforward victory, he belted an ace and spun round to check the speed registered by the radar gun. He pointed to the screen, tucked in a corner of the court and flashing 191kph.

Having signalled his intentions, he then unleashed a service designed for power rather than accuracy. No more than an inch long, it was gauged at 202kph, marginally slower than the fastest recorded at the championship, by Michael Stich and Lars Rehmann, both of Germany. Agassi smiled and rolled up his right sleeve to expose his biceps.

In the following game, he took the breath away by running in towards Golmard's service, thrashing it low over the net and completing the audacious point with an outrageously oblique drop shot, nonchalantly applied with vicious spin. He won more admirers as well as a place in the next round.

The light-hearted touches are doubtless about to be forfeited. Both of his victims have been qualifiers, albeit ruthlessly dismissed for the loss of just 14 games. From here, the opposition will be sterner, starting with Greg Rusedski, the big-serving Canadian who was on the verge of breaking into the top 40 last year.

Ahead lies the prospect of the marketing men's dream. In the last 16, Agassi could face Australia's golden boy, Patrick Rafter, one of only two home representatives left in the championship. The other, Mark Woodforde, was so grateful for the vocal backing on Wednesday that he gave Aus$50 to his supporters.

His compatriot needs to offer no bribes, though he did donate three sweat-bands after he had beaten another qualifier, Steve Campbell, 6-4, 7-6, 6-2. Rafter expressed relief, especially at serving four successive aces to conclude the tie-break. "It was so hot out there," Rafter, 21, from Queensland, said, "that I was trying to pace myself."

He will next be involved in a preview of the Davis Cup tie in South Africa. He plays Marcos Ondruska, who knocked out the sixteenth seed, Richard Krajicek, in straight sets.

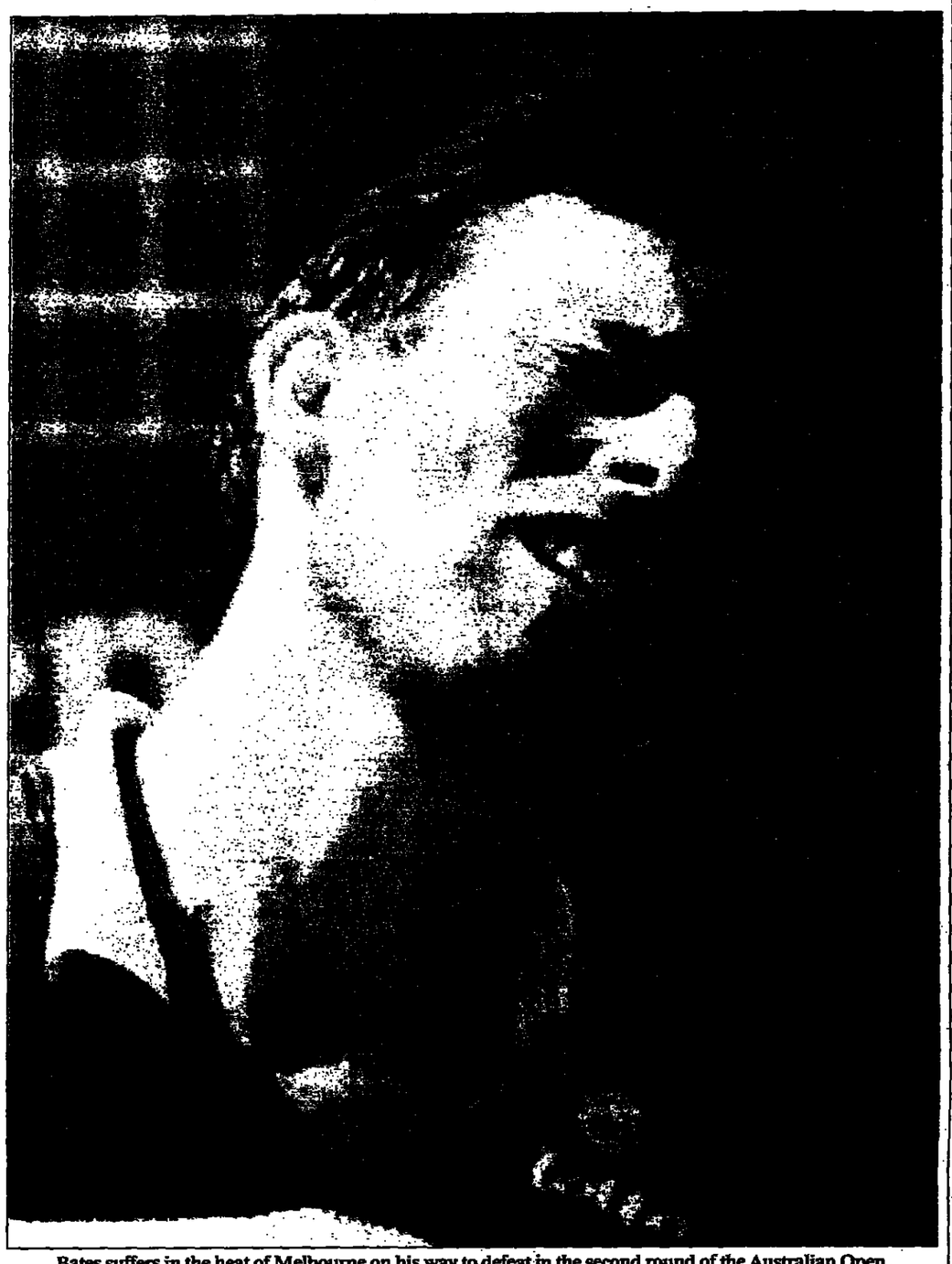
The other seed to fall was Wayne Ferreira, the No 11, who was credited with an inordinately high number of 100 unforced errors, the beneficiary, Aaron Krickstein, conceding that the conditions had played a part. "It has been hotter in the past here but we were fortunate to start at ten o'clock in the morning," he said.

Jeremy Bates had the misfortune to be sent out in the noonday sun with Patrick McEnroe. "It was a killer in the beginning," the Britain No 1 said. In the end he accepted responsibility for his failure to overcome the conqueror of Boris Becker, the third seed, in the opening round.

Of the 20 break points that Bates fashioned, he missed all but three to go out 6-3, 7-5, 6-3. "I couldn't capitalise on the chances I had," he lamented after toiling for two hours and 20 minutes.

The quality was even lower on court No 11, where Petr Korda recovered from an early warning for time-wasting and a two-set deficit. "I felt as though I was playing in an oven," he said after sharing a total of 192 unforced errors with Lars Burgsmuller, yet another qualifier.

Todd Martin, the eighth seed, suffered from a nosebleed midway through his victory over Jean-Philippe Fleurian, and Stefan Edberg, the sixth seed, continued to suffer from eager youngsters. For the second time he was extended by "a young and hungry" opponent, Adrian Voinea, from Romania, but at least his 29th-birthday celebrations were not spoiled.



Bates suffers in the heat of Melbourne on his way to defeat in the second round of the Australian Open

Loss of Proctor causes new headache for weary Wales

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT NEVER rains but it pours for Wales. Already deprived by injury of five senior players, rugby union's five nations' champions yesterday lost a sixth, Wayne Proctor, before departing for the opening round of the 1995 championship, against France in Paris tomorrow.

Proctor, 22, of Llanelli, who has been playing some of the most assured rugby of his career this season, had apparently recovered from influenza only to go down with a chest infection that required a visit to hospital in Cardiff for blood tests. His place on the wing goes to Simon Hill, of Cardiff, who played against South Africa in November and now wins his seventh cap.

Wales, already without Ieuan Evans, Mike Rayer and Nigel Davies in their potential back division and Emyr Lewis and Hemi Taylor in the forwards, clearly sought as much experience as possible rather than offering a first cap to the Wales A wing, David Manley. Hill, 26, played in the victory over France last season though it will be his first visit to the Parc des Princes.

"It's another problem we could have done without, but Simon knows what is required of him at this level," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said after his squad trained in heavy rain at the Leckwith Stadium in Cardiff. The chances of Wales playing a broad game in Paris are, in any case, comparatively limited, and bad weather could determine the nature of the game both there and in Dublin, where Ireland, who play England, trained yesterday in extremely wet conditions.

England left London after their closed session at Roehampton with the words of two senior players echoing in their ears: both Rob Andrew (61 caps) and Dean Richards (38) have told team meetings this week that they believe the game at Lansdowne Road will be their hardest of the championship.

This is harsh experience-speaking, not merely opinion established as a result of defeats in Dublin and Twickenham over the past two years. Andrew has played the Irish ten times, five times at Lansdowne Road, and each of his older colleagues shares his opinion. "We hope we have learned the lessons of the last two years," Will Carling, the captain, said.

Carling refers to the "distractions" of the last two meetings: in 1993, to the earlier loss in the championship to Wales and the forthcoming British Isles tour; last year, to the expectation of the advantage that playing at Twickenham might have brought and a failure to solve the problems apparent in the narrow win over Scotland.

"This year," he said, "we have a number of options, but players have to do the basics well. This time, we may be going over there as underdogs. We have heard they are confident and, looking at the bare facts, maybe they should be."

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Cards on trial 40
Jones back in control 40

Five of the England team have yet to play an international in Dublin and will have to become accustomed to the "wall of sound" that Jack Rowell, their manager, ascribes to the ground. "The Irish have a well-balanced team, two wings who are a threat and Brendan Mullin back in the frame," Rowell said. "Their forwards will get wound up and, if we give them things that encourage them, the crowd will get behind them and they will become supermen."

☐ Mark Ring, the centre or stand-off half capped 32 times by Wales between 1983 and 1991, has been dismissed by Pontypool. "The interests of parties would be best served by a severance of Ring's connections with the club," a statement by Pontypool said.

Nash's Middlesex career may go up in smoke

Michael Munro reports on a drugs scandal in New Zealand cricket

Three New Zealand cricketers — Stephen Fleming, the batsman, and Dion Nash and Matthew Hart, the all-rounders — have been dropped for the three-match one-day international series against West Indies after being fined for using cannabis during the recent tour of South Africa.

Nash, who sprang to prominence in England last summer with 11 wickets and a half-century in the Lord's Test match, is scheduled to join Middlesex as their overseas player for the coming season as a replacement for Desmond Haynes.

Joe Hardstaff, the Middlesex secretary, interviewed on BBC Radio's *Five Live*, said: "I applaud the action they have taken because drug-taking has no place in our game."

The New Zealand cricket authorities said Nash deserved to be given a second chance with Middlesex. "That is probably a good guess," Hardstaff said, "but we will consider Dion's position when we have all the facts."

After the three players were each fined NZ$250 (about £100), Nash said he had "merely simulated" using cannabis at a private party. Fleming and Hart admitted smoking the drug.

Fleming said: "I deeply regret my involvement in the incident that has led to my suspension and for bringing shame and embarrassment on the game of cricket in New Zealand. I am very aware of my responsibility as a role model for young people. This has been a painful lesson for me. I hope it will serve as a useful lesson for other young people."

The suspensions were imposed after an inquiry into the team's performance on the tour to South Africa, from which it returned 12 days ago. Geoff Howarth, the coach, resigned two days ago amid uproar over poor results and reports of lack of discipline off the field. Mike Sandiant, the team manager, had stepped down a week earlier.

Howarth, the former Surrey player and New Zealand captain, looks to have borne the brunt of the dissatisfaction with a record that has seen New Zealand lose their past 12 one-day internationals and go down to a 2-1 defeat in the series against South Africa after winning the first Test match. Howarth has been replaced by John Reid, the former Test batsman — no relation to the New Zealand captain of 30 years ago.

John Morrison, the former Test batsman who is now a television commentator, attacked an "unhealthy star culture" in the team. Some less experienced players seemed to think they had joined the rich and famous and had forgotten what they were in the team for, he said.

Sir Richard Hadlee, the former Nottinghamshire and New Zealand all-rounder, said the credibility of New Zealand cricket was now "very much on the line".

New Zealand Cricket, the sport's governing body, is celebrating its centenary and the arrival of West Indies for the one-day internationals and two Test matches heralds two busy months in which South Africa, Australia, India and Sri Lanka will also join the celebrations.

Justin Vaughan, Dipak Patel and Royden Hayes have been called up for the suspended players for the first one-day match against West Indies in Auckland on Sunday.

John Woodcock, page 38
South Africa fight back, page 38

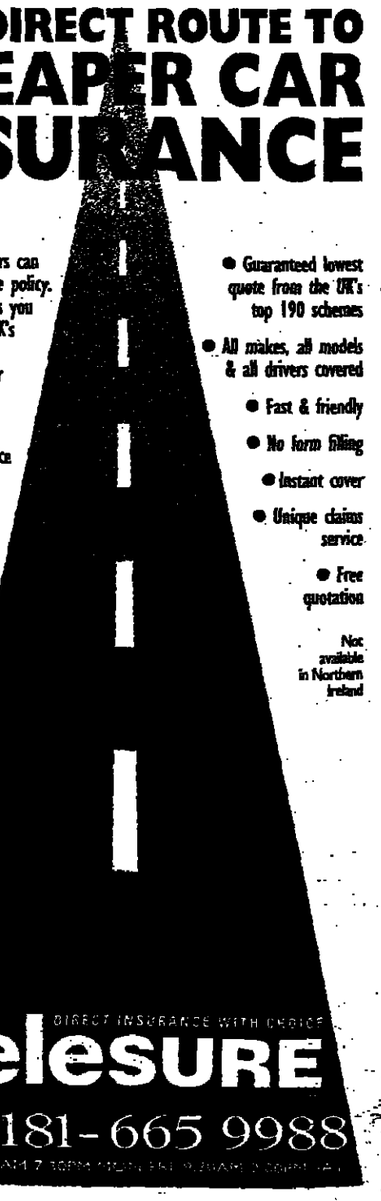
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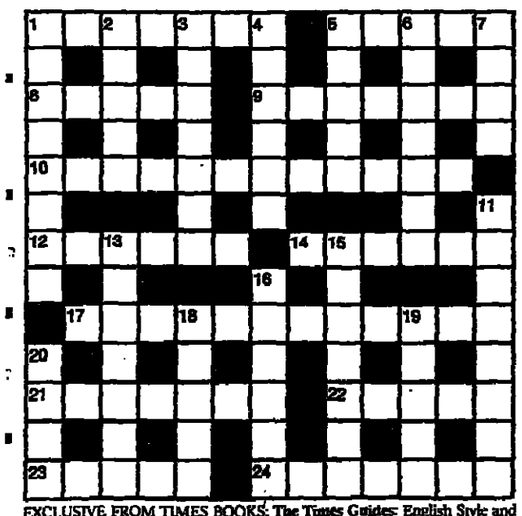
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 374

ACROSS
1 Bitter, sour (7)
5 Information channels (5)
8 Foreign(er) (5)
9 Course of diet. therapy (7)
10 Look round as tourist (3,3,6)
12 Servant's uniform (6)
14 Of uneven quality, coverage (6)
17 Unseen listener (3,2,3,4)
21 Normal course of duties (7)
22 To taste; unscripted remark (2,3)
23 Small reflected shaft of light (5)
24 Lockjaw (7)

DOWN
1 Water (loc.) (5,3)
2 Banishment (5)
3 Inn of Court governor (7)
4 Clear, light red (6)
5 Gog's fellow-giant (5)
6 Popular; spoken Greek (7)
7 Last Stuart monarch (4)
11 Prescribed content of study course (8)
13 Carrion bird: one preying on the weak (7)
15 Temporarily suspended (7)
16 Formally witness (to) (6)
18 Poppy drug (5)
19 Exhausted; inclusive (3,2)
20 Two-master; northern bridge (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 373

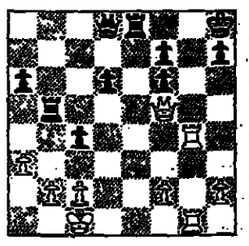
ACROSS: 1 Massage 5 Mused 8 Split 9 Pertain 10 Insomnia 11 Idly 13 Good and proper 16 Lett 17 Octuplet 20 Premier 21 India 22 Proof 23 Surfeit

DOWN: 1 Missing 2 Silas 3 Autumnal 4 Esprit de corps 5 Mars 6 Stand up 7 Dandy 12 Croupier 14 On the go 15 Retract 16 Lap up 18 Ladle 19 Riff

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nunn - Pritchett, Bundesliga 1985. White has broken through on the kingside. How does he deliver the coup with a checkmating combination?



Solution, page 40
Raymond Keene, page 6

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PALUDAL
a. Marshy
b. Playing games
c. Prehistoric

QUEBRADA
a. A leather armband
b. An inn
c. A mountain stream

RINGOCANDY
a. A sort of sweet
b. Malaysian arboreal primate
c. Flattery

PA'ANGA
a. A jungle knife
b. Tongan money
c. A heart attack

Answers on page 40